THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • DECEMBER 12, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

REVOLUTIONARY U.K. THERAPY CURES 'INCURABLE' CANCER

Teenager sees her aggressive form of leukaemia go into remission after undergoing a new form of gene therapy

TREATMENT INVOLVES ALTERING T-CELLS

Thirteen-year-old Alyssa from Leicester was last year diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia that does not respond to conventional treatments. Facing a grim prognosis, she signed up for an experimental therapy and received donated T-cells that have been altered using base-editing to find and kill leukaemic T-cells in her body

GIRL STAYS CANCER-FREE FOR SIX MONTHS

- Just 28 days into the treatment, her cancer showed signs of remission and she has remained cancer-free for six months now
- T-cells are a type of white blood cells that play a key role in immune response. The success of the new therapy offers hope that cancers deemed untreatable today could soon be cured

1st time

A PATIENT HAS BEEN INFUSED WITH BASE-EDITED T-CELLS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

CBI asks Kavitha to substantiate her statement

Issues notice after seven-and-a-half hour examination over the Delhi liquor scam

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY @Hyderabad

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday issued a notice to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter Kalvakuntla Kavitha, asking her to submit documents of her travel between Hyderabad and Delhi, hotel bills and call data related to the accused in the Delhi liquor policy scam, to substantiate her statement given to the agency.

The notice was issued under Section 91 of CrPC after the officials recorded the MLC's statement after a seven-and-a-half-hour examination at her Banjara Hills residence on Sunday.

The CBI team told her that they would fix a date and place for her next examination and convey the same through email.

A six-member CBI team, including a woman officer, reached Kavitha's residence at 11 am and left at 6.30 pm. Sources said four officers from New Delhi and two from the Hyderabad zonal unit cross-examined her over the alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy.

A senior Supreme Court lawyer was also present during the examination held on the ground floor office of her residence.

The legislator was summoned as a witness in the case under Section 160 of CrPC while the statement was recorded under Section 161.

Sources said the CBI officials asked Kavitha regarding her links with the persons arrested in the case — Boinpally Abhishek Rao, Sharath Chandra Reddy and Amit Arora. The sleuths also reportedly examined her about her links to Robin Distributions director Arun Ramchandran Pillai, who is also one of the accused and has been named in the first information report by the CBI.

Additionally, the officials asked her about her alleged participation in meetings with policy-makers, traders and mediators, who are suspects in the case. They also sought to know about the alleged destruction of mobile phones by Kavitha, as was mentioned in Arora's remand report filed by the Enforcement Directorate, said sources.

Officials examined her about her communication with Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia regarding the excise policy, said sources, adding that they also asked if she sought from him any concessions for the alleged 'South Lobby' in the scam.

Keeps KCR in the loop

Kavitha visited Pragathi Bhavan, the CM's official residence along with a Supreme Court advocate in the evening. There she briefed her father K Chandrasekhar Rao on what transpired during the CBI examination

Sukhu sworn in as Himachal CM, plays down feud

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

CONGRESS leader Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was on Sunday sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.

He and his deputy Mukesh Agnihotri were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar during a grand ceremony in historic Shimla Ridge in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Sukhu's family, including his 85-year-old mother, wife and daughters were present at the ceremony.

Only Sukhu and Agnihotri took the oath on Sunday with the cabinet expansion likely to take place over the coming days. Sources said efforts are on to end factionalism within the state Congress unit.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra after the swearing-in ceremony in Shimla on Sunday | PTI

Meanwhile, Sukhu sought to play down friction within the party. Talking to a television channel, he said, "Lobbying happens, but there is no factionalism in the Congress in Himachal... It was a narrative by the BJP."

Sources said Vikramaditya Singh, the son of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh, who passed away last year, could be accommodated in the cabinet to please the Virbhadra faction.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Sukhu and assured all possible cooperation from the Centre to further the development of the state. "Congratulations to Shri Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu Ji," Modi said in a tweet. "I assure all possible cooperation from the Centre to further the development of Himachal Pradesh," he said.

Before the start of Sunday's ceremony, Congress leaders paid floral tributes to a portrait of Singh. The state Congress had been under the shadow of Singh for several decades and the swearing in of Sukhu, considered his rival, is seen as a generational shift.

Sukhu is expected to start attending office from Monday.

PATEL TO TAKE OATH TODAY IN PM'S PRESENCE

BJP legislative party leader Bhupendrabhai Patel will take oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, and other dignitaries, BJP leaders said on Sunday. Patel, who will be the 18th CM of Gujarat, will be administered the oath of office by Gujarat governor Acharya Devvrat at a grand ceremony to be held in Gandhinagar. The new council of ministers will also be sworn-in

After 3-month wait, Justice Dipankar Datta elevated to SC

SHRUTI KAKKAR @New Delhi

THE Cente on Sunday elevated Bombay High Court chief justice Dipankar Datta as a judge of the Supreme Court, three months after the Supreme Court Collegium recommended his name for the top court.

The elevation was recommended by the SC Collegium headed by former CJI U U Lalit in its meeting held on September 26. The appointment assumes significance against the backdrop of the top court rapping the Centre for its inordinate delay in appointment of judges to higher judiciary.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will administer the oath office to Justice Datta on Monday. With this, the number of SC judges will go up to 28 against the sanctioned strength of 34. He will have a tenure till February 8, 2030.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued a notification announcing the appointment. Justice Sanjay Vijaykumar Gangapurwala, senior-most judge in the high court after Justice Datta, will be the Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay HC after the incumbent relinquishes his charge. "In exercise of the power conferred under the Constitution of India, Justice Dipankar Datta has been appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court of India. I extend my best wishes to him," Law Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted.

Justice Dipankar Datta

Justice Sanjay Vijaykumar Gangapurwala is the son of ex-Calcutta HC judge Salil Kumar Datta and the brother-in-law of former Supreme Court judge Amitava Roy.

Born in February 1965, he obtained his LLB from the University of Calcutta in 1989. He worked as a junior standing counsel for the West Bengal government from May 16, 2002 to January 16, 2004 and as a counsel for the Union of India since 1998. He was elevated to the bench of the Calcutta HC as a permanent judge on June 22, 2006. He was made Bombay HC chief justice on April 28, 2020.

L-G nod to prosecute key accused in Sulli Deals case

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @New Delhi

DELHI Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Sunday granted sanction to prosecute the main accused in the 'Sulli Deals' case in which Muslim women were "auctioned" online, sources said.

The police need the L-G's sanction to prosecute the accused under CrPC 196.

The accused, 26-year-old Aumkareshwar Thakur, will be prosecuted under Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which pertains to prosecution for offences against the state and for criminal conspiracy to commit such offence, they added.

Aumkareshwar Thakur

Thakur has been accused of creating the Sulli Deals app and Sulli Deals Twitter handle, which indulged in virtual auctioning of Muslim women with the aim of derogating them and insulting the Muslim community. Several Muslim women were listed for "auction" on the mobile application with photographs sourced without their permission and doctored.

The special cell of Delhi police had registered a case in this regard on July 7, 2021. Thakur was arrested in January this year and booked under Section 153A and 354A of the IPC. Section of 66/67 IT Act was later added to his chargesheet.

THE FINAL FOUR

As France sent England packing in the last quarterfinal on Saturday, the semifinal line-ups are here. A look...

ARGENTINA: They have not had an easy ride, but they are here in the last 4. After 8 years, Lionel Messi once again is one step away from reaching the finals. And as it was the case against Netherlands, they need him at his best come Wednesday

VS

Wednesday, 12.30 AM

CROATIA: The 2018 finalists have stuck to their strengths, taking every game deep. And it has paid off. Their experienced campaigners have stepped up. And the title is becoming to look like a realistic possibility for Luka Modric & Co

FRANCE: With Olivier Giroud at the peak of his form and Kylian Mbappe being the showstealer, they have been the team to beat so far. Barring the one off day against Tunisia, there has been no stopping them. That said, Morocco could be the real test

VS

Thursday, 12.30 AM

MOROCCO: It doesn't matter what happens from here. They have made history - the first African nation to reach the semis. That they have conceded just one goal tells how much they have controlled proceedings everytime they took field | P11

Mandous destroys crops in Kolar, Tumakuru dists

V VELAYUDHAM & DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Kolar/Tumakuru

CYCLONE Mandous has destroyed ready-to-harvest crops in Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Tumakuru districts, pushing farmers into distress. In particular, tomato and ragi crops have been affected the most and there is now a threat of prices of these commodities going up.

Only small amounts of sweet corn and tomato have been harvested and sent to markets, farmers said. As the ragi crop in vast swathes of land has been destroyed, dairy farmers too are likely to be affected as ragi stalks are used as fodder for cattle throughout the year.

The Kolar APMC, which is the second biggest market for tomatoes in Asia, received only 1,866 quintals of tomato on Sunday, while on any normal day it gets upwards of 10,000 quintals. But the price remained at a low of Rs 360 per 15kg crate. P5

The sweet corn crop damaged due to rain on farmer Murali's land in Srinivaspura

NO COLD STORAGE FOR ONIONS IN GADAG

Despite being the biggest onion producer in North Karnataka, Gadag lacks efficient cold storage facilities. The district's Agriculture Market Produce Committee had begun constructing two cold storage units, which are yet to be completed. As a result, farmers are struggling to store the crop amidst incessant rain, and have accordingly demanded the authorities to address the issue at the earliest. In Gadag district, onion is grown in over 5 lakh hectares of land. P5

B'luru to host 1st G20 meet of Finance Track

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting, which has been hosted by the Union Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be held in Bengaluru for three days from December 13. The first Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting will also be held concurrently.

The meetings are expected to mark the start of discussions on the finance track agenda under the Indian G20 presidency. "The discussions will include reorienting international financial institutions to meet the shared global challenges of the 21st century, financing cities of tomorrow, managing global debt vulnerabilities, advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains, financing for climate action and SDGs, a globally coordinated approach to unbacked crypto assets and advancing the international taxation agenda," pointed out a statement from the Finance Ministry.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a panel discussion will be held on 'Strengthening multilateral development banks to address shared Global challenges of the 21st Century'. A seminar on the 'Role of Central Banks in Green Financing' too has been organised. Around 40 meetings of the Finance Track will be held in several locations in India, which include meetings of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the release said.

HOSPITAL ON WHEELS

Isolated Arunachal villagers see doctor for 1st time

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

IT was virtually a hospital on wheels that meandered into Gandhigram in the remote Vijaynagar circle of India's easternmost Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday.

The locals were awestruck at the sight of the 12-vehicle convoy. It came carrying 60 medical personnel, including 25 doctors, and equipment to run a health camp. The Vijaynagar circle, located on the Myanmar border, has remained cut off from the rest of the world for decades together due to communication bottlenecks.

Chopper was the only mode of transport. Now, there is a 157 km road from the nearest Miao town to Vijaynagar. It traverses the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve.

District Magistrate Sunny K Singh told this newspaper that it was not just a health camp but a *hospital aapke dwar* (hospital at your doorstep). He said the team carried equipment to do ECG, ultrasound scans, CBC (complete blood count) test, and even conducted some minor surgeries. "The villagers were very happy that so many doctors came together. Some had never availed of healthcare services. In fact, there were some who saw doctors for the first time on Saturday," Singh said.

> **A hospital was taken to the place. The doctors identified 15-20 cataract patients. Some were bed-ridden, so the doctors examined them at their houses**
>
> Sunny K Singh, dist collector

Elderly people being helped by health workers at the camp | EXPRESS

Gandhigram, located about 135 km away from Miao, has just one health sub-centre, manned by a nurse. Only a few locals go there. They are examined by the nurse, who also gives them medicines. The neartest primary health centre is in Vijaynagar, 22 km away, and is manned by just one doctor who may not be available all the time.

The second health camp was organised in Vijaynagar on Sunday. The state government purchased medicines for ₹10 lakh for the two camps.

Haveri govt hosp operates on 185 kg woman, saves her

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @Haveri

A team of doctors from a government hospital in Haveri saved a 48-year-old woman, who weighed 185 kg, by conducting a rare intestinal surgery, after she was refused treatment by several private hospitals saying the procedure was impossible.

The patient, Chandramma from Somalapura, was admitted to a private hospital with breathing problems. The doctors said she needed to undergo a rare surgery, but it was not possible to perform as she was overweight. The family members then shifted her to a government hospital in Haveri, where a four-hour-long surgery was performed yielding good results.

Chandramma's weight had led to breathing issues and also damaged her intestine, parts of which were removed during the procedure.

Dr Niranjan from Ranebennur, who is the surgeon at the Haveri District Hospital, led the team of doctors and saved the woman. "The patient's heartbeat and pulse were low and it was a serious case. Besides obesity, she had high sugar levels and blood pressure. It was a complicated surgery. However, with the efforts of our team, the rare surgery was conducted. The woman is doing good," he said. P5

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 12/12/2022 • **Year:** Shubhakruta • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Hemantha • **Masa:** Margashira • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Chathurthi 3.20 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Pushyami 9.06 pm • Moon in Simha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 18°C | MAX 24°C
FORECAST
Isolated tstorms. Cloudy

Sunrise 6.31 am
Sunset 5.54 pm
Moonrise 11.27 pm
Moonset 9.50 am

REVENUE RECEIPTS LOW, BBMP TO CUT BUDGET SIZE

Focus on welfare measures, solid waste management, educational institutions, says Palike special commissioner for finance

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

REALISING that the revenue collection is around Rs 4,000 crore against a budget estimation of Rs 9,000 crore that is sufficient to execute several projects, the BBMP is all set to reduce the size of its 2023-24 budget to make it more 'realistic'.

Jayaram Raipura, Special Commissioner, Finance, said that inputs from all the departments will be ready in 15 days and once the public also gives its opinion, a 'realistic budget' will be prepared and presented 15 days after the state budget. He said the focus will be on welfare measures, educational institutions and effective solid waste management.

"Big projects and other verticals that need more funds will be sent to the government to implement. The Palike will only be responsible for their maintenance. BBMP's resources can be used for strengthening its educational institutions and focus more on urban poor with welfare measures and work on its solid waste management," he added.

An urban expert, who did not want to be named, termed the Palike's budget exercise a "stunt", saying, "Revenue receipts are not up to date and

there are leakages that have never been addressed honestly. There are around 25 lakh properties and if ground checking is done correctly, the properties like owned, rented and commercial will come under the scanner and the revenue collection can double to Rs 8,000 crore. With that, the Palike can be self-sufficient."

He blamed both officials and elected representatives for Bengaluru's bad administration. "The Palike should first go for a pre-audit, prepare a checklist of major projects and then come up with a budget," he stressed.

Urban expert V Ravichander said the 'big budget' announcement of the BBMP is for populist reasons. "The BBMP has a tendency to overstate the budget, while in actuality, it is less. For the actual budget to be announced and come into force, it requires a political will and administrative firmness," he added.

Metro girder work near Baiyappanahalli on

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

WITH the Railways finally permitting traffic and power blockage for a small stretch between Karmelaram and Baiyappanahalli stations on the Bengaluru-Salem line, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has begun work on its overhead structures above the railway line. BMRCL had recently announced that it would be opening the Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield only up to K R Puram, as work at the railway crossing near Baiyappanahalli is yet to start.

TNIE has a copy of the letter issued by the senior divisional operations manager of Bengaluru Railway Division, approving line blocks ranging from three to four hours on nine separate days, between December 8 and December 31, to facilitate BMRCL to carry out its work.

BMRCL personnel erect an open steel web girder, above the railway tracks, near Baiyappanahalli in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

The process of erecting an open web steel girder running to 65 metres, began on Friday, a senior BMRCL official said. The girder is a steel structure fabricated and erected over the span (horizontal structure between the piers). The girder is being erected between pillars 25 and 26. "Concrete would then be poured to create a deck, over which the rail tracks are laid," the official added. "It is being done at a height of 14 metres above the railway tracks. Anything over 8 metres above the railway tracks is safe, and there will be no issues in future when trains run." The launch will happen on December 19, the source said. The erection of the girder marks commencement of work on the 2.5-km stretch from KR Puram to Baiyappanahalli. This stretch is set for commercial operations by June 2023, while the 13-km stretch from Whitefield to K R Puram, where testing is on at present, is likely to become operational by mid-March next year.

Nearly 500 tonnes of steel were imported from Bhilai to ready this girder. BMRCL previously constructed its structure over the railway line near Malleswaram, during its Phase-I project. "It was a 60-metre structure in concrete, and was created at the site itself," the official said.

MINIMUM WAGES

Garment workers paid lowest, plan campaign demanding salary hike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

GARMENT workers are planning a campaign demanding that their wages to be hiked, something that has not happened in eight years, against the mandate of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

The Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU) has demanded that the government increase salaries of garment workers, 80 per cent of whom are women. According to them, the workers have not had their wages revised since 2014, in contrast to the Minimum Wages Act, which mandates that minimum wages should be revised within five years of the previous revision.

"The state government had released a draft notification in 2018, increasing wages of garment workers, but had withdrawn the same after lobbying from garment unit owners. Workers are being paid only Rs 10,441, the lowest of any state in the country and the lowest for scheduled industry workers in the state," said GATWU president Pratibha R. She said that following the withdrawal of the draft notification, the workers had approached the High Court and an order was issued, terming the government's withdrawal as illegal and instructing the government to issue the

final notification, increasing the wages of the workers.

According to GATWU, the workers are being paid one-third of what is supposed to be today's minimum wage. "The Supreme Court, in the case of Reptakos Brett has given the formula to be used for fixing the minimum wages. Based on that, if calculated at today's rates, the minimum wages should be fixed at Rs. 28,200," the union stated.

According to the withdrawn order, the basic wage for the workers was hiked to Rs 445 a day, totally amounting to around Rs 14,000, taking into account Dearness Allowance.

GATWU had also submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary and the Principal Labour Secretary to issue the final notification on November 28. As of next week, the workers plan to start a stir, protesting against the government's failure to revise wages.

LISTEN LESSON

Radio shows to help children learn better

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN order to make learning more interesting, the Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) has announced a slew of radio shows for students.

As of December 12, the Bandhani Programme, as DSERT has named it, will feature lessons on ethics, yoga, health, English and Kannada languages, and mathematics. The lessons will be broadcast from 13 radio stations and three Vividh Bharati stations in the state. They will also be made available on the All India Radio Bengaluru YouTube channel. According to a notification issued by DSERT, the lessons will be broadcast from the stations from Monday to Thursday on the stations, between 2.35 pm and 3 pm. DSERT has also issued instructions to ensure that students of all schools are able to tune in, which includes appointing a senior lecturer as a district nodal officer to ensure that the programmes are implemented properly, as well as instructing headmasters to make necessary arrangements within the school schedule to allow students to listen to the lessons.

DSERT has released the timetable for the broadcasts of the radio shows until February 2023. The schedule can be accessed on the website (www.dsert.kar.nic.in)

Bus yatra to help boost K'taka's startup sector

ENS @ Bengaluru

IN a bid to boost the startup ecosystem in the state, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), in association with TiE Bangalore, began a special bus yatra here on Sunday. Titled as Start-up XPRESS — from Bengaluru, the yatra aims to bring together startup founders and mentors/investors in a 12-hour journey that will culminate at the TiE Global Summit (TGS) 2022 host city, Hyderabad.

The bus will make stops at Tumakuru and Ballari — two emerging startup clusters — to encourage the ecosystems and shed light on the benefits these regions can expect with future investments. More than 25 startup founders have been joined by 25 investors/mentors who will network and interact with them to fine-tune their eventual pitches at the showcase event. The bus ride will provide founders ample opportunity to hold detailed discussions with some of the startup sector's finest leaders and entrepreneurs in a unique, fun environment. Over the course of the trip, founders will undergo peer-learning and pitch development activities and receive feedback on their proposals, helping them refine their overall strategies and product pitches at the summit.

BV Naidu, Chairman of Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, said, "Our focus remains making significant contributions towards realising a $300-billion contribution to the digital economy, primarily through an innovation and technology startup ecosystem that generates jobs, improves market access, and allows for infrastructure upgrades and policy implementation. The Start-up XPRESS will play a small, but influential role in the bigger voyage that we're undertaking." This year's TGS will be held between December 12 and 14 in Hyderabad.

SPORT SPARK

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, MP Tejasvi Surya, MLA Ravi Subramanya and others at the inauguration of 60th National Roller Skating Championship at BBMP Chennammanakere Achukattu Playground in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

New Year's Eve: Pubs, resorts get ready to party after 2 years

ENS @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the considerable decline in Covid-19 cases, which had played spoilsport on New Year's for the last couple of years, the city's hospitality industry is all set to welcome 2023 in a grand way. Owners of several resorts and pubs have already approached celebrities, and are roping them in to draw crowds on December 31, to make up for the losses they have incurred so far. Besides, they have also requested the authorities not to impose much restriction on the New Year's eve.

Krishnaraj S P, an executive member of the Bengaluru Hotels Association, said that recently, the city police commissioner had permitted hotels and restaurants to remain open till midnight. "Now, we have enough time to organise the celebrations. We have also demanded the BBMP officials and police not to impose any restrictions for the events."

Resort and pub owners have decided to invite actors and singers to host events, and are expecting bigger crowds this year. "Several owners suffered huge losses in their business during the pandemic. Thankfully, this year we have an opportunity to recover the losses suffered previously," Krishnaraj added.

A pub owner said, "I have spoken with DJs, who have good contacts with Bollywood celebrities, to bring them to my pub in Indiranagar. I have plans to bring a well-known singer as well, to host a live event, but I can't reveal the names as yet."

It may be recalled that last year, the police had imposed curbs on New Year's Eve celebrations in the wake of increasing cases of the omicron variant of Covid-19. Besides, night curfew was imposed across the state. Restaurants, hotels, pubs, and clubs were allowed to function with 50 per cent seating capacity in adherence to all Covid protocols.

EXPRESS READ

50-km walk for obesity awareness

BENGALURU: The Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute organised a 50-km walkathon from Malavalli to Shimshapura to create awareness about inculcating physical activities in daily life, with an aim to prevent obesity. Doctors opined that obesity has become a major non-communicable disease among people. Obesity was considered a disease of the rich earlier, but has now shown effects over the middle-class and poor too.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

12th December: Pisces is my sign of the day - and it's one of my favourite signs. According to the great psychologist, Carl Jung, the entire history of the world for the last two-thousand years has been dominated by what he called the Age of Pisces. Mind you, I don't think Pisceans would want to take responsibility for a great deal that's passed for civilisation over that time!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
An upbeat Moon, full of commonsense, is just what you need to get off to a good start. Given that there are few planetary pressures this week, you can do yourself a favour and drop any aspects of your life which have outlived their usefulness. Go on - you know you can do it!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Your first reaction to a new proposition will probably be to accept it without question, especially if it relates to home or family matters. Only later will doubts begin to creep in. Knowing this, you may wish to take more time in the first place!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Today's dominant planetary alignment is nicely helpful, and will enable you to bring out your legendary qualities - such as your ability to talk at great length about almost anything! But will anyone else understand you? Well, perhaps it really doesn't matter!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The first thing to be considered now is your role in an emotional relationship or joint undertaking. The heart of the matter could be financial, including the question of who pays for what. That might be an issue you can't solve now - so put it off till tomorrow!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
A relative or colleague may now believe that you can be brow-beaten or otherwise forced to accept second-best. If only they knew that the Moon was on your side, they'd see how wrong they are! The stars' first advice is to stand your ground, and only to compromise when you know the result is going to be fair.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It's because you put on a brave face and conceal your true feelings that others often misunderstand your real intentions. Now, before you can talk about your emotions you need properly to understand your motives. If you then say what you mean, other people might actually sit up and pay attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Loved ones may be argumentative, but there doesn't seem to be anything wrong which can't be smoothed over with a little kindness and compassion. Friends can be called in to help if extra assistance is required. See to it that you contact the right people at the appropriate time, though.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You may be wondering how long it will be before underlying tensions can finally be satisfactorily resolved. The answer is not for some time yet, so continue to take whatever evasive action you feel is necessary. Your next step might actually be to look at the financial implications.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Mercury, ruler of deep thought and wisdom, is now approaching a supportive relationship with Jupiter, planet of inspiration. The psychological impact finds your intellectual processes becoming sharper, to the point where your judgment will be beyond criticism.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
No one can prevent you continuing a feud for as long as Mars arouses your irritation - or even anger. But you can decide for yourself whether it is really worthwhile letting the distant past colour your present actions - or allowing chance events to disturb your emotional equilibrium.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Workwise you have been through a period of change, and it's now time to make the necessary personal adjustments. If you have in any way neglected your social life or ignored old friends, now is the moment to correct the balance. Get in touch!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
All ambitious and professional individuals are now hitting a new phase, one full of fresh ideas. Even if your life is determinedly leisured you will soon be struck by the realisation that you have neglected your talents. It might even be a good time to think about learning a new skill.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

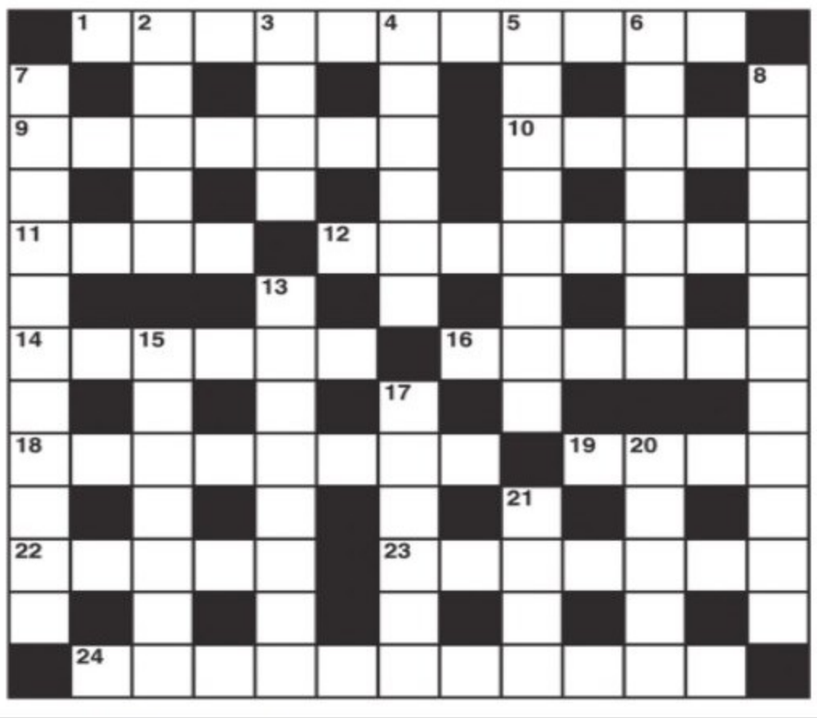
					2	9		3
9	7		8			6		
			6				7	1
2	1	9				5	3	
	5			3			2	
	6	7				8	9	4
1	9				5			
		3			8		5	9
5		6	9					

5	4	6	2	3	8	1	7	9
3	9	2	1	5	7	6	4	8
7	1	8	4	9	6	2	3	5
9	3	7	5	4	2	8	1	6
2	6	5	8	7	1	3	9	4
4	8	1	9	6	3	7	5	2
1	5	3	6	8	4	9	2	7
8	2	4	7	1	9	5	6	3
6	7	9	3	2	5	4	8	1

SUDOKU

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Enemy dragon destroyed for extra cash (6,5)
9 Substitute one fabric with another (7)
10 Rub out as in before (5)
11 Do a turn at the helm perhaps (4)
12 Beat this for a political slogan (8)
14 He may follow an ace with clubs of course (6)
16 Wine cartel set up again (6)
18 It's criminal to take a couple of fools in (8)
19 He's rough, tough, loveless and confused (4)
22 A very small measure of corn (5)
23 Last drop of drama (7)
24 The point in these puzzles is to start a fight (5,6)

DOWN
2 Very soft drink without fruit (5)
3 Clothes may be changed on the ascent (4)
4 Smoking jacket? (6)
5 Pole bare in preparation for possible surgery (8)
6 It's possibly mean of us to show delight (7)
7 The cost of undertaking a serious accusation? (5,6)
8 Man of intelligence moves centre stage (6,5)
13 Is disagreeable? (8)
15 Lose hope as pride is destroyed (7)
17 America is after a record in Olympic event (6)
20 Listened to the sound of the cattle (5)
21 It plays between two and four (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Seared, 4 Offering, 9 Le Mans, 10 Misplace, 12 Leek, 13 Steak, 14 Menu, 17 Settle a score, 20 Table manners, 23 Root, 24 Tally, 25 Vera, 28 Find out, 29 Halves, 30 Thrushes, 31 Tendon.

Down: 1 Selfless, 2 Armrests, 3 Eons, 5 Fait accompli, 6 Espy, 7 Isabel, 8 Goes up, 11 It's a pleasure, 15 Gleam, 16 Irene, 18 Reserved, 19 Assassin, 21 Profit, 22 Corner, 26 Is is, 27 Fare.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TEUAS

WRHLI

PORUTO

DEAROF

Venus spins so slowly that a day on Venus is equal to 243 Earth days. And it would be a very hot day averaging about 847 degrees Fahrenheit.
So I'd only be a few days old if I lived there?
THEY ARE VERY SIMILAR IN SIZE, BUT THE PLANETS VENUS AND EARTH ARE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SLANT COLOR CLOSET FAIRLY
Answer: The quality of this particular transparent form of quartz was — CRYSTAL CLEAR

An FIR has been registered against seven policemen, including the Srirangapanta police inspector, on Sunday for allegedly arresting and threatening a 17-year-old youth who attended the Sankeerthana Yatra held on December 4 in Srirangapatna. The FIR has been registered against police inspector B S Prakash, constables Vijaykumar, Krishna, Umesh, Sharat, Raghavendra and Harish based on the complaint filed by Hindu Jagaran Vedike leader Naveen

Two policemen suspended for extorting couple over 'night rule'

Head constable and constable stopped the couple and asked for various documents including their Aadhaar card

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWO police personnel of the Sampigehalli police station have been suspended for allegedly extorting a married couple, who were walking back home.

Head constable Rajesh and constable Nagesh have been suspended after Karthik Patri, who stays near Manyata Tech Park, had alleged on social media that two staff of the Hoysala patrolling vehicle had extorted him. Patri said that he was walking back home with his wife after attending a programme at around 12.30 am on Friday when a pink Hoysala van stopped them.

"The two men in police uniform asked us to show our ID cards. We were surprised. We had photos of our Aadhaar cards and showed it to them (policemen). To our surprise, they took our phones away and started quizzing us about our relationship, place of work, parental details, etc. Though a bit shaken up, we answered their questions politely. At this point, one of them took out what looked like a challan book and started noting down our names and Aadhaar numbers. Sensing trouble, we asked why we were being issued a challan," Patri stated.

The policemen allegedly told the couple that they are not allowed to roam the streets after 11 pm, and the couple asked whether there was such a rule. "Educated people like you should know about such a rule," a staff reportedly told them.

Not convinced, the couple apologised for being ignorant of the rule, and assured that they will not venture out late night again in the future. "We thought we were over it, but it was as if the two men were waiting for this moment. They refused to let us go and demanded Rs 3,000 as penalty. We literally begged them to let us go, but they wouldn't. The more we pleaded, the harsher they became, even threatening to arrest us. This continued for a long time until the harassment became unbearable. They showed us pictures of convicts and threatened us with dire consequences if we didn't pay up. I could barely hold my nerve, while my wife was in tears," he alleged.

Later, the police advised them to pay a minimum amount to avoid further trouble and Patri agreed to pay Rs 1,000. Later, one of them asked him to scan a QR code through which they allegedly collected the amount, and let them off with a stern warning.

After a complaint was raised on social media, the police conducted an inquiry and found that it was HC Rajesh and PC Nagesh who had extorted the couple and suspended them.

PSI, ASI SUSPENDED FOR FLEECING JEWELLER

Two police sub-inspectors of SJ Park police station have been suspended for allegedly extorting a jeweller. Police sub-inspector Ashok Thakur and assistant sub-inspector Ramesh had detained the businessman near Town Hall on December 3 on receiving information that he was carrying a large amount of gold. "The businessman was carrying 3.5 kg of gold in a bag and the policemen had brought him to the station. As the businessman sought time to produce documents, the two policemen told him that they will have to seize the gold," an officer said. The two allegedly demanded money for not registering any case and had allegedly extorted the businessman before letting him free. "The two had neither mentioned the case in the station diary nor reported the incident to senior officers. A few days later, the businessman filed a complaint with senior officers, who conducted an internal probe. As serious lapses were found on the part of the PSI and the ASI, both were suspended pending a departmental inquiry," the officer added.

Diabetes test for pregnant women can reduce mortality

NAMRATA SINDWANI
@ Bengaluru

TAKING steps to ensure quality health for citizens of Karnataka, the state now plans to focus on diabetes, and screen pregnant women for it in the upcoming year. The long-term aim of the initiative is to reduce maternal and infant mortality/morbidity rate in the state.

Karnataka Maternal Health Deputy Director Dr Rajkumar N told TNIE that they plan to identify and screen pregnant women for diabetes. He explained that factors like diabetes and even anaemia were contributing to cases of maternal morbidity, and attributed it to worsening lifestyle habits, poor eating habits, and reduced physical activity among the people.

Dr Rajkumar said that 10 per cent of women have chances of having gestational diabetes (diagnosed during pregnancy), and if they are identified and treated accordingly, it will help in further reducing mortality rate among pregnant women.

Diabetes can have numerous effects on a woman's pregnancy, Dr Haritha Rao, gynaecologist, explained. A woman can either be already diabetic when she gets pregnant, or have gestational diabetes.

She added that in cases of pregnancy occurring with the help of IVF (In vitro fertilisation) treatment, chances of gestational diabetes were higher. Hence, every pregnant woman has to undergo tests to check if she is diabetic, during the course of her pregnancy. If found to be diabetic, necessary action is taken either by maintaining a proper diet or medicines, to keeping it in control.

Uncontrolled diabetes can cause health-deteriorating effects on a woman and her child, and can cause increased fluid in the uterus, preterm labour, premature breakage of membrane, and even stillbirth. The newborn can also have high blood sugar levels transmitted from the mother.

Doctors urge women to ensure proper care before and during the course of pregnancy. If tests are taken up in the pre-pregnancy stage, ensuring a woman's fitness to carry a baby, many cases can be controlled.

WET, COLD...

Two women cross a street in Bengaluru on Sunday as the city saw drizzle as a result of Cyclone Mandous which has weakened into a deep depression over north coast of Tamil Nadu | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

2kg fibroid removed from woman's uterus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 24-year-old Bengaluru woman underwent a successful surgery to remove a 2kg fibroid in her uterus, almost the size of a watermelon, at a private hospital in the city.

For the past six months, the woman had been experiencing symptoms like tiredness, breathlessness, bloated stomach, heavy periods etc. However, she ignored all symptoms due to her ongoing wedding preparations.

One day, she fainted and was immediately admitted to a hospital. She was found out to be severely anaemic, with a low haemoglobin level of 3 (normal level is 11). In further evaluations, she was detected to have a large fibroid, making her uterus the size of an nearly eight-month pregnant woman.

Dr Shwetha S Kamath, obstetrician, gynaecologist and a laparoscopic surgeon said they performed a successful surgery and discharged the woman within two days. The fibroid was removed laparoscopically through a small incision which will ensure faster recovery. The woman was also able to get married on her prefixed date completely stress free, the doctor added.

FIR against pastor for alleged forcible conversion, rape

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Koppal

THE Koppal police have filed an FIR against three persons of a family on after they were accused of religious conversion and rape. The three persons have been absconding and the Karatagi police in Koppal are now searching for them. While the first case was registered under provisions of forcible conversion, the second is for allegedly raping a minor girl.

The police said that pastor Satyanarayan alias Samuel has been preaching at a church in Karatagi for many years. Shankar has now lodged an FIR with the police demanding action against the pastor, his wife and his son. The police said that both the complainant and accused were acquainted to each other, and the children of the complainant were staying at the place of the accused when the rape was reported.

The police said that both the cases are different, but have connection as the accused in both the cases belong to the same family. The role of Samuel's wife is also being probed.

"As per the complaint, the pastor has forced Shankar and his family to convert to Christianity four years ago. Then they were practising their new religion though they had not officially converted. Shankar was waiting to expose Samuel who allegedly used to target poor families and would lure them to convert. But in the meantime, Shankar's minor daughter was raped by the pastor's son, who is also a minor, and then Shankar lodged a complaint," said an officer.

The police said that the matter will be clear once the absconding trio are in their net. "We have questioned the complainant and his family members. We are also checking about the claims of forcible conversion in recent years in the Ramanagara area where the complainant and his family live," the officer added.

10-month-old drowns in bucket filled with water

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

A SHOCKING incident of a 10-month-old baby drowning was reported from Bisthuvalli village of Jagaluru taluk in the district on Saturday evening.

According to the police, Anusavya was playing in front of the house and had fallen inside a bucket filled with water placed by the side of the house.

The incident had gone unnoticed for sometime, later, girl's parents Manjunath and Tara and their relatives looked for the baby around the house and found Anusavya fallen in the bucket.

Manjunath immediately took the baby to Jagaluru Government Hospital, however, she succumbed on the way. Jagaluru police visited the spot and are investigating the incident.

Training for police officers should be along lines of NDA, suggests Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai stressed the need for special training for mid-level police officers on the lines of the National Defence Academy (NDA). He told senior officers to take responsibility to ensure police recruitment is free of irregularities and corruption.

Speaking at the investiture ceremony held for presentation of the President's Police Medal to police personnel at Raj Bhavan here on Sunday, Bommai said the lower rung staff and IPS officers must get the best training. "Mid-level officers must be provided with the best training before they are promoted. Refresher courses must be conducted, and they must be trained to investigate any case effectively," he said, adding that training should be of high calibre, as in the NDA.

Irregularities in police recruitment cannot be tolerated and senior officers must ensure that the recruitment process is clean, the CM said. "You make any changes to the law and make use of any technology, but there should be no scope for irregularities in the recruitment process," he added.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra during the President's Medal Award Investiture Ceremony 2022 at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

He also said that the number of forensic science laboratories should be increased to conduct better investigation and each region must have at least two labs. "Cybercrime should be tackled in such a way that crimes are detected within a few minutes after they are committed. For this, the government is ready to provide all support in terms of special training for staff and technology upgradation. Grants for this will be provided in the next budget," Bommai said.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Rajneesh Goel, DG & IGP Praveen Sood and others were present.

PRECIOUS QUALITY

Railway porter returns 100g of gold worth ₹4.8 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A woman passenger, who lost a box containing 100 gram of gold at KSR Bengaluru station on Sunday morning, got it back within a few hours, thanks to an honest porter. The gold is valued at around Rs 4.8 lakh.

Mohammed Eizaz, a licensed porter (rail sahayak), found the box and handed it over to the Deputy Station Manager, said an official release.

Mohammed Eizaz hands over the gold to the woman passenger | EXPRESS

The box's owner, Sangeetha, had alighted from the Talagupa-Mysuru Express with her family around 5 am. The family planned to take a connecting train to Bangarapet and after waiting at platform 10 for nearly two hours, they came to platform 6 to catch the next train.

During this time, she realised that her box with gold, which she had placed in the side pocket of her bag, was missing and approached the City Railway Police for help. The railway official, who was given the box by the porter, alerted the Railway Protection Force. The items were identified and handed over to the rightful owner in the presence of railway police after the completion of legal formalities.

The passenger conveyed her gratitude to the entire railway team, especially the railway sahayak.

Kusuma Hariprasad, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (administration) said Eizaz will be rewarded suitably.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOSS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

Public are hereby informed that I, **Faiz Shaik,** has lost the original Gift deed dated 30.06.2015 bearing Reg. No.1142/2015-16, CD No.MLSD 109, registered in the office of the Sub- Registrar, Malleshwaram, Bangalore and Gift deed dated 09.09.2021, Registered in the office fo the Sub-Registrar, Ganganagar, Bangalore bearing Reg. No.1149/2021-22, CD No.GNRD 994 has been lost while transit at Chokkanahalli, Bangalore dated 07.12.2022 to 09.12.2022.

In this regard have lodge a Police Complaint to Bangalore City Crime branch on 09.12.2022, vide Lost report No. 0410492/2022. If any one found the above said original documents kindly return to undersigned my address and finders will be rewarded suitably.

Sd/-
FAIZ SHAIK,
No.614, 'B' Block, R R Signature Apartment, Thrimunahalli Main Road, Chokkanahalli, Bangalore Mob: 9900156079

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients propose to purchase the below mentioned immovable property which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder, from its lawful owner and Kathedar **Mrs. PURNIMA. K.**, aged 51 years, wife of Mr. S. R. Sridhara, residing at No.424, 5th Cross, 4th Main Road, JP Nagar 3rd Phase, BENGALURU-78.

The owner has represented that she is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property, having a clear and marketable title and unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The owner has further represented that the Schedule property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, charges, liens, mortgages, disputes, litigations, and/or any third party rights/ claims/demands of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that all persons including individuals, Banks, financial institutions, creditors etc., having or asserting any benefits, objections, demands, claims, share, right, title and/or interest in respect of the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **(10) Ten days** from the date of this publication, and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients, and my clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claimants/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of immovable property consisting of land together with Residential Building comprising of Ground floor and First floor bearing **BBMP Khatha No. 283/275/10/1B/21, Site No. 21, carved out of Converted Land bearing Survey No.10/1B, formerly Bommanahalli Nagarasabhe Khatha No. 260 (old), New Khatha No. 275, situated at SARAKKI VILLAGE, UTTARAHALLI HOBLI, BANGALORE SOUTH TALUK,** also known as Sarakki Village Main Road, in BBMP Ward No.197, of Puttenahalli Municipal Sub-Division, Bengaluru- 560078, being bounded on the : **EAST BY: Private Property. WEST BY : ROAD, NORTH BY: Private Property. SOUTH BY: Site No.20,** measuring East to west 42 feet, North to South (30'+38')/2, in total site area is measuring 1428 Square feet, together with the building, structures, fixtures and fittings now standing thereon with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface.

SHASHIKANTH DESAI, Document Writer
No.20, Ground floor, BDA Complex, Domlur, BENGALURU -560 071.
Place : Bengaluru, Date:12-12-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE LOST OF DOCUMENT

I, Smt. Swarna S, aged about 39 years, W/o. Sri. B. Kanteeravaraju, #2970, II Floor, 13th B Main Road, RPC Layout, Attiguppe, Bangalore-560040, Aadhaar No: 5365 6178 7353, I hereby declare that, the obtained Sale Agreement in the name of my husband Mr. B. Kanteeravaraju on 24-09-2010, in respect of property bearing No.37, Janger No. 559/60/1A2, converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order No. BDS.ALN (AJ)SR 121/2006-07, dated 03.10.2008 measuring **East to west: 80 feet and North to South: 50 feet,** totally its measuring 4000 Sq.ft situated at Kachanayakahalli Village, Hennagara Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, executed by its owner **Mr. H.V Nagaraj, S/o. M.V Rajaiah** and the registration bearing no. is JGN-1-02551/2010-11, CD No. JGND107. I hereby declare that have lost the above said original Sale Agreement on 26-06-2022. In this regard we have lodged a Police Complaint, GSC No. PO2144220600357, Serial No.76A, lost Report No. 357/ 2022, dated 01-07-2022.

If anybody finds the above said document, please return to the above mentioned address or near by police station or call us on: **9886815488.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information to the General Public that my client **NAGAKIRAN.S, Son of Shanthakumar Sarja,** residing at No. NWC 256/A, Ganesha Colony, New Town Notified Area, Bhadravathi,-577301, is intend to purchase of Schedule property from its owner PUSULURI SRINIVASA RAO, Son of Sri.Sambasiva Rao, Presently Residing at No.1-78, near Ramalayam, Sakhamuru, Thullur, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522237. If anybody having any right, share, claim or objection to the proposed purchase may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents, within **10 days** from the date of this publication to the purchaser's advocate at below mentioned address, failing which my clients will be advised to go ahead and complete the formalities for registration of the sale deed in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Site bearing **No.85,** House List Khata old No. 49/2 and New No.254/2, situated at **Varanasi @ Jinkethimmanahalli, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** Bangalore, Presently Comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, having Khatha Serial No.4538, Property No.254/2, Site No.85 and Ward No.54 of Hoodi and bounded on:

East by : Site No.84,
West by : Site No.86,
North By : Site No. 69,
South by : Road.
Measuring:
East to West : 30 FEET & North to South : 46+53/2 FEET.
In all measuring :1485 Square FEET.

R.R.Upadhya, Advocate
RAVISHANKAR ASSOCIATES,
#92, 2nd Main Road, Between 7th & 8th Cross, Chamrajpet, Bangalore -18 Mob: 9241102941

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

FINANCE

Loan available against mortgage of immovable property on reasonable interest rate (10% to 12%) & long term and easy instalment repayment facilities. (Contact: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

SYNDICATE FINANCE
428, Rawal Bldg. No. 1, 1st Floor, Lamington Road, Mumbai - 400 004.
Ph: (022) 2388 0634 / 2386 3781
(022) 3565 7754 / 3565 7941
E-mail : info@syndicatefinance.in
Website : www.syndicatefinance.in

AFFIDAVIT

I. **TEJAGOWDA** W/o Umesh Kittur Subbanna, residing at 33,5th Main, Saraswathipuram, Mysore-570009 state that my name is mentioned as **TEJA** in Property Document & my PAN Card and my name is mentioned as **TEJA GOWDA** in my Aadhar Card & in ICICI Bank account. Both the names are pertains to me as per affidavit dated 10/12/2022 vide affidavit sworn before **Y.M.Kiran,** Advocate & Notary, Mysore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that **Mrs. REENA GEORGE** S/o Reji George, willing to sell the schedule property in favour of my Client **Mr. LAKKIREDDY VIJAYA BHASKER REDDY** S/o Venkata Reddy, free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the below mentioned address within 07 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE:

All that piece and parcel of Vacant Site **Property bearing No.3/20, formed in portion of property Sy.No. 3 and 4, old Khatha No.1160, situated at Bromely Estate, Pattanduru Agrahara, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 45 feet, total 2700 sq. ft. bounded on the:

East by : Site Nos.3/11 & 4/9, West by: Road, North by : Site No.3/19 and South by : Site No.4/15.

Contact :
R. GOPALA REDDY, B.A., LL.B.,
Advocate,
No.334, Kodihalli Main Road, Old Airport Road, Bangalore-560 008
e-mail id:
gopalreddy.advocate@gmail.com
Contact No: +91 98450 89375

NO NEED FOR SEPARATE LAW FOR 'LOVE JIHAD', SAYS ARAGA

Amid a demand from pro-Hindu organisations to bring stringent law against 'Love Jihad', Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said there is no need for a separate law as the present anti-conversion law covers it. On Sunday, Hindu Jagaran Vedike members met Jnanendra and submitted a memorandum demanding the government take action in 'Love Jihad' cases. When contacted, he told TNIE the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act covers forcible conversion through marriage

After caste-based meets, BJP now to woo professionals

Will hold meet of its 24 cells in B'luru on Dec 18 where 20,000 are expected to take part

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru

WITH the Assembly polls just a few months away, the state BJP, which has been organising rallies targeting particular communities, is now planning to woo different professionals by organising conventions and rallies specifically for them.

The state BJP has 24 cells, each focusing on professionals like doctors, advocates, fishermen, farmers, weavers, industry workers, soldiers, teachers and others. A state-level convention of these cells, 'Shakti Sangama', is being organised at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on December 18. Close to 20,000 people are expected to take part, and Union minister Ashwin Vaishnav is likely to inaugurate it.

BJP state General Secretary N Ravikumar told *The New Indian Express* that this is the first time that they are organising conventions for professionals like doctors and advocates, who were otherwise being treated as normal voters. "By organising each sector, we will be able to reach out to a larger number of voters. For instance, if we organise industry-based or labour-based meetings, we can communicate with at least two lakh members," he added. These issues will be discussed at the December 18 meeting and a road map will be laid out for such conventions, he said.

"We will appeal to these professionals to vote for BJP candidates, whichever Assembly constituency it may be. With this, we can also target family members of these professionals," he said.

BJP sources said that while a few professions are associated with certain castes, others, like doctors and advocates, are not. "We want to interact with them and include their demands in our manifesto. This is our comprehensive reach-out programme too," said a senior BJP leader, requesting anonymity. Some of these professionals identify with other parties and the focus of these conventions is to make them get close to the saffron party, he added.

BSY, BOMMAI TO ATTEND GUJ CM'S SWEARING-IN

Bengaluru: Former CM BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai are among the few invited for the swearing-in ceremony of Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel on Monday at Gandhinagar. While Yediyurappa has reached Gujarat on Saturday, where he visited the Statue of Unity, Bommai will attend the ceremony only. On Saturday, Yediyurappa took part in BJP Gujarat legislature party meeting in Gandhinagar as the party's central observer along with Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Arjun Munda. He is set to return to Bengaluru on Monday.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Food for thought on JDS yatra

Having launched the Pancharatna Yatra, JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy is leaving no stone unturned to reach out to voters. And wherever Kumaraswamy and his team take part in a rally, people and party workers are coming up with unique garlands using fruits, vegetables, dishes, coriander, greens, spice, maize and much more. Netizens are trolling him, saying one can make fruit or vegetable salad at the rally, which is good for health.

BSY skips Yatra, gift goes to substitute

Former CM B S Yediyurappa, who skipped the Tumakuru leg of the BJP's 'Janaspandana Yatra on December 7, was missed by his staunch admirers, especially former Tumakuru Rural MLA B Suresh Gowda. The latter has got the local war room cum office -- Shakti Soudha -- up and running at Guluru village for the 2023 assembly polls, and put up huge cutouts of BSY and Bommai. Gowda, who had predicted that Bommai would be changed six months ago, has suddenly turned admirer and even presented him with a silver sword. But his close associates let on that he had bought the sword for Yediyurappa. Suresh is known to be a smart player, having changed his name from B Suresh to B Suresh Gowda with an affidavit, after losing the Kunigal assembly seat in 2004. Then, he switched to Tumakuru Rural and won twice with the backing of the Vokkaliga community, all on the power of the Gowda name. "He might have suggested the same trick to Union minister Shobha Karandlaje, to change her name to Shobha Gowda," observed a BJP leader.

The royal lives of paw pals

That every dog has its day is quite well-known, but Mangaluru City South MLA D Vedavyas Kamath was surprised to learn this. On Sunday, as chief guest for a dog show in Mangaluru, he came across scores of dog parents who had come from different parts of the state, and other states too, with their prized possessions. As he walked around, MLA Kamath learnt about the royal treatment these breeds got, and quipped, "See, many people in our country haven't experienced air-conditioning, but these dogs have...!" He was also surprised to learn from a paw parent that he spends around ₹20,000 on his pet every month.

IN MEMORY OF A WARRIOR

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah unveils a statue of Sangolli Rayanna at Dasarahalli in Bengaluru on Sunday

FIR against Renukacharya for obstructing govt official

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

AN FIR has been filed against CM's political secretary MP Renukacharya for allegedly obstructing a government official from discharging his duty. A copy of the FIR is available with TNIE, which shows that the Nyamathi police have registered an FIR on November 12 under IPC section 186 based on the complaint of a village accountant MS Prashanth Kumar of Kunkuva circle.

The FIR states Kumar had filed the complaint with the Nyamathi police on October 30. After the FIR was filed, Kumar was transferred to Nalluru circle in Channagiri circle. Kumar was allegedly ordered by Renukacharya to write a report on damage to houses during rain in Nyamathi taluk in a way that helps people close to the MLA get compensation, but Kumar refused. During a visit to Koganahalli village, Kumar reported about losses of cattle sheds, but the MLA allegedly forced him to report it as house damage.

Later, Renukacharya allegedly summoned Kumar to his house, and asked him to rewrite the report, which Kumar again refused.

An FIR was filed only after Kumar approached the court.

Vishwanath confirms his return to Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH one of the principal rebels who had joined BJP has confirmed his return to Congress, there is a question mark about others. Adagur Vishwanath (72) told the TNIE that he will rejoin Congress in Delhi after he met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, CLP leader Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar. The former minister had joined BJP in 2019 and helped Yediyurappa become CM again.

Vishwanath alleged that he was promised a ministerial berth but was never given one. Instead of being an elected MLC, he was merely nominated, and therefore never made a minister by BJP, but he denied contesting from Hunsur, his previous constituency.

The former Mysuru MP said he will contest Parliamentary polls. Last time, Congress fielded Vijayshankar, who moved from BJP to Congress during elections, and again moved back to BJP after elections.

Sources said, "Of the team that joined BJP, it was not only Vishwanath who was left high and dry, former sitting MLA Pratap Gowda Patil too was ruined by that decision, and so was former minister R Shankar who was accommodated as a mere MLC." Asked about his future plans, Shankar told TNIE, "Let's wait and watch." Sources said that the leader of the pack Ramesh Jarkiholi has been left without a ministry even after investigating authorities had given him a clean chit months ago. Sources said the 17 rebels are in touch with each other.

NOT GUJARAT, BUT HIMACHAL THAT BJP NEEDS TO LOOK AT

EUPHORIA in the BJP camp over the party's stupendous victory in Gujarat is quite understandable. But, contrary to the general notion and the party leaders' rhetoric over emulating the "Gujarat model", its strategists need to more closely look at the Himachal Pradesh result for taking corrective measures.

The defeat in the North Indian state with snow-capped mountains comes as a warning bell for the BJP ahead of the 2023 polls. It shows that the party is not invincible. A determined opposition with the right strategy can trounce it. Even with a strong high command at the Centre, dealing with factionalism in the party and rebels in the fray is not an easy task and could even prove detrimental.

In Gujarat, the party has managed seven successive victories. But Karnataka, like Himachal Pradesh, has a decades-old tradition of voting out incumbent governments. The ruling party that is hoping to return to power is likely to follow the Gujarat model of benching many seniors to make way for new faces. That may be an effective way of overcoming anti-incumbency at the local level, but if not handled well, the party brass could face a Himachal Pradesh-like situation in Karnataka. Internal sabotage could make a big difference in closely contested seats.

BJP looks to usher in many changes. Unlike in previous elections, this time the party is going to the polls not under its Lingayat strongman BS Yediyurappa's leadership, but under the "collective leadership". Although the former CM is busy campaigning for the party, it is yet to be seen how the dominant Lingayat community that has backed him and the party in the recent elections will vote this time.

Retaining support from the Lingayat community will be crucial for BJP even as it makes all efforts to consolidate its support base among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), and tries hard to make inroads into the Vokkaliga bastion. Congress is also trying hard to win over Lingayats and reconsolidate its support among Vokkaligas, who seem to be backing JDS led by former PM HD Deve Gowda in the Old Mysuru region

The Old Mysuru region still looks to be a big challenge for BJP which is evenly poised against Congress in most other regions in the state.

Bengaluru City with 28 Assembly seats is crucial for both BJP and Congress. Here, the Aam Admi Party (AAP) can prove to be a headache for the ruling party. Unlike in Gujarat, where AAP cut into Congress votes, in Bengaluru, it hopes to get the support of urban voters disenchanted with the BJP. AAP may find it difficult to win seats in Bengaluru, but it can damage BJP's prospects to some extent. AAP has been striving for a foothold in Bengaluru for the last few years and has even managed to onboard some prominent personalities.

The BJP government is also under pressure from many communities that are demanding reservation and it is yet to be seen how it will impact the polls as leaders cutting across party lines are part of such pressure groups fighting for their communities.

Congress leaders in the state are itching for a fight, unlike in Gujarat, where its central leaders almost left the battlefield even before the war started. In Karnataka, enthused by the results in the recent bypolls and Legislative Council elections, local Congress leaders see the possibility of the party coming to power and are ready to sweat it out.

The party, however, faces the major challenge of putting up a united front as the competition among the chief ministerial aspirants could prove its Achilles heel. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's emphasis on unity among the leaders indicated both the magnitude of the challenge as well the party top brass's intent to address it.

Kharge during his maiden visit to his home district Kalaburagi gave a clear indication that the high command will assert itself to ensure unity and make all efforts to win elections in the state. In comparison to Congress, BJP learns quickly from its failures and adapts fast. Post Himachal polls, it is likely to come back with more vigour, making Congress's task even more difficult.

Now, the focus of top leaders from both parties will shift to Karnataka. They will be looking to fine-tune their strategies post-Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh polls.

Karnataka is crucial for BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as the party holds 25 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats. Retaining power in the state is also important for the BJP as it tries to make inroads into other southern states.

'BJP survey predicts 55 seats for JDS'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy claimed that an internal survey of the BJP has predicted that his party is likely to bag 55 seats in the 2023 assembly polls.

However, he said that, considering the overwhelming response to the Pancharatna Yatra, the party is set to win 123 seats.

On Sunday, around 50 leaders of the Congress and BJP from the Chamarajpet assembly constituency joined JDS. Chamarajpet block Congress president Govindaraju, former deputy mayor Ramegowda, former corporator Gowramma, among others joined the party. Kumaraswamy observed that the national parties have been resorting to various strategies every two months after the internal survey. "In fact, a popularity poll shows that JDS' trajectory is upwards," he claimed.

JDS has been going from strength to strength due to the Pancharatna campaign led by Kumaraswamy, said former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda. "Amid various developments in the state and nationally, we, the JDS, should focus on our goal," he suggested.

"The JDS will certainly win the Chamarajpet seat," Kumaraswamy asserted.

Chamarajpet is one of the key constituencies in Bengaluru represented by CLP leader Siddaramaiah's admirer and former minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, who often challenges the Gowda family.

Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy welcomes Congress leaders into the party at the JDS office in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Cong leaders, brass meet today; tickets, rift on agenda

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

WITH 2023 Assembly polls approaching, the Congress high command has convened a meeting of leaders of the party's Karnataka unit in New Delhi on Monday where issues ranging from internal rift to strategies to win the elections are likely to be discussed.

"Since ticket distribution is likely to morph into a big issue, it will be taken up for discussion. AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge will have the power to decide on candidates," a source told TNIE.

CLP leader Siddaramaiah, KPCC president DK Shivakumar, former DCM Dr G Parameshwara, KH Muniyappa, MB Patil and others are likely to attend the meeting at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi, where Sonia and Priyanka Gandhi are expected to be present.

They are likely to tell the sulking leaders to avoid confusion by raking up the issue of chief ministerial candidates. Groupism has also become a headache for high command. Siddaramaiah is planning to launch his own yatra from Janurary 3, as his admirers and Chamarajpet MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan and Hebbal MLA Byrati Suresh have arranged a special bus for him from North Karnataka, while KPCC chief DK Shivakumar plans to launch another yatra from the Old Mysuru region. Parameshwara had suggested they should launch the yatras only after the SC/ST 'Aikyata Samavesha' on Janurary 8 in Chitradurga.

Modi, Shah set to lead host of rallies

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

IN the run-up to the assembly polls, the state BJP has planned a series of public rallies by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president JP Nadda and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath across the state.

In January, the PM is expected to take part in Raitha Morcha Samavesha scheduled to be held in Belagavi and Shah will attend the SC Morcha Samavesha in Chitradurga, where the opposition Congress has also planned a SC/ST Samavesha on January 8.

"Modi will visit the state once every 15 days and Shah four times a month," said Revenue Minister R Ashoka.

Meanwhile, RSS leaders have been holding talks with the CM as he will be the BJP's face. RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale met Bommai, and on Friday night, veteran RSS pracharak Mukunda CR held a meeting with the CM for two hours. "They discussed Bommai's cabinet expansion and induction of former ministers KS Eshwarappa, CP Yogishwara and Ramesh Jarkiholi to brighten party's chances in certain seats," a source said.

Two strategists for the party in Karnataka, Union ministers Bhupendar Yadav and Piyush Goyal, also held talks with Bommai during his visit to New Delhi recently.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate a samavesha of party workers on December 18. Nadda is expected to address rallies in Bagalkot on December 15, 20 and 21. The party's Yuva Morcha Samavesha in Udupi on January 12 will be attended by Adityanath.

READY TO FACE SIDDU, SAYS VIJAYENDRA

Mysuru: Responding to the challenge of contesting against former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Varuna constituency, BJP state vice-president BY Vijayendra riposted, saying, "I am ready to face any challenge. It's up to the party to decide," he added. Asserting that he is ready to shoulder any responsibility, Vijayendra said he his organising the party in Varuna and other constituencies, and is committed to winning more seats in the Old Mysuru region. He said leaders of the Grand Old Party are under the wrong impression that BJP's massive victory in the Gujarat elections will not impact Karnataka.

Hindu priests should be sent back from Datta Peetha, says Souharda Vedike secretary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chikkamagaluru

STATE Komu Souharda Vedike Secretary Gouse Mohiuddin on Sunday demanded that the Chikkamagaluru district administration send back two Hindu priests who were appointed temporarily to conduct pujas during the three-day Datta Jayanti celebrations.

These priests are continuing with the pujas even after the celebrations. Their deputation was accepted only after public prosecutors appealed for it in writing, he pointed out.

"Muslim priests were told to step aside, claiming that the cave shrine would be desecrated. This was an insult to the Muzavars. These incidents could be an attempt to grab the Dargah property," he alleged.

"While pujas were being performed, a notorious rowdy who had been banished from the district was also seen with the priests. The video had gone viral. But when questioned, district administration officials chose to ignore it," he added.

On the managing committee for the Datta Peetha, he said, "Of the eight members, seven belonged to one community, while a lone member was a Muslim, who is a known activist of BJP. But the district administration put up a defence, saying the committee is transparent. The falsehoods of the administration will be questioned legally."

The Kerala High Court has directed the Travancore Devaswom Board to inform it after due consultation with the Tantri of the Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala whether the darshan timing can be extended by one hour in view of the heavy flow of pilgrims

STRAY DOG POPULATION, A MATTER OF CONCERN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

LAST week, a 12-year-old girl was attacked by stray dogs in Belagavi when she was returning from school, a three-year-old boy was killed by a pack of stray dogs in Bhadravathi, a girl was attacked in Purale of Shivamogga and a child got 15 stitches on its neck in Gadag after bitten by street dogs.

These are just some stray dog attack cases that have come to light, while a majority go unreported. Incidents of street dogs attacking people, especially women and children and bikers riding late at night, have increased across the state. Experts and officials from the animal husbandry department blame improper execution of the anti-birth control programme (ABC). Even as many NGOs are keen to carry out the exercise on behalf of municipal corporations, improper allocation of funds is deterring it, they say.

A report by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi states that the country this year has seen 250 deaths due to rabies and most of them are from Karnataka at 32. The report said that some victims died despite taking the anti-rabies vaccine. While 20,000 Indians have died because of rabies, 60 per cent are children below 15 years of age. The National Rabies Control Programme has been implemented across India, except in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, the ministry added.

Experts pointed out that the tussle between animal lovers and city corporations is the other reason for the rise in stray dog population and dog attacks. There have also been clashes between those who feed animals and others. The concept of issuing animal feeder cards to animal lovers started in 2012, but many are not aware of it. The card gives the licence to citizens to feed dogs, but those who do not have it and feed dogs can be stopped and reported to the municipality.

The cards are issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India, but the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) does not have a database on the number of such animal lovers in the city. In other parts of Karnataka, including Hassan, Kolar and Chikkaballapur, no cards have been issued. In places like Madikeri, however, feeders are helping the municipality catch dogs for the ABC programme.

To address the issue of clashes between government agencies, animal right activists, feeders and citizens, the state government is working on strengthening the Stop Cruelty to Animals (STCA) campaign, where feeders and other stakeholders will be given cases to handle in specific areas to ensure that the dog population is under control.

Dr Pervez Piran, former joint director, Animal Husbandry Department, told TNIE that to control the menace, it is important to ensure that there is no gap. "Even if three males are missed it is fine, every female should be captured for the ABC programme. The animal feeders should be used as a network for the programme as animals have already built a trust with them. But the dedication among officials is missing," he added.

Catching and neutering stray dogs is not easy but with the cooperation of all, it can be done, he said. Citizens, including feeders, play a crucial role in capturing and neutering the animals and it does not require big infrastructure. "The process that was followed earlier can be replicated. A dog is captured, neutered and released in the same place. This ensures that their territory is not disturbed and the population is also under control, ensuring a lesser number of conflicts," he explained.

Another activist, working with the BBMP and state government in the ABC programme, said many people allow dogs to take shelter in their homes when dog capture vehicles arrive and this should not be allowed. The problem is also because while the area of the city has increased, the programme has not. "The focus of the ABC programme is only in around 800 sqkm area, while new wards and expanding boundaries have not been covered and the problem is increasing in newer areas. A similar problem persists in neighbouring districts too. While subadult and adult dogs have boundaries, puppies, juveniles and females wander to newer places, increasing the population," he said.

Animal activists said dogs wandering into forests and attacking wild animals is increasing which is a cause of concern. Stray dogs attacking peafowls or spotted deer have been seen in forests around Bengaluru. Many municipalities too are to be blamed as they are catching dogs and releasing them into the forest endangering the wildlife. Such incidents have been reported from Dandeli and Chamarajanagar. In Kolar and Chikkaballapur, street dogs are increasingly attacking cattle, while in Belagavi, 20 street dogs attacked and killed 12 sheep.

Bengaluru

BBMP said Bengaluru has 1.5 lakh street dogs as per the 2019 survey report, while the numbers have not been updated over the last two years because of the pandemic.

Ravi Kumar, Joint Director, BBMP, Animal Husbandry, said that on an average, around 600 dogs are vaccinated for anti-rabies every month, while four dogs are captured for ABC every day. He said that as per a Supreme Court order, those who feed the animals should also take care of them (vaccinate and sterilize). But that is not happening. The BBMP has been able to sterilise only 71 per cent of the dog population, but this is less compared to their breeding cycles. Only a few adopt local breed dogs, he pointed out.

From April till October 2022, 28,341 dogs have undergone ABC programme, while 52,635 have been vaccinated for rabies. For this period, no dog bite deaths have been reported, while 17,610 dog bite cases have been registered. Also, 3,217 dog rescue calls have been made to BBMP and NGOs, states the BBMP report.

Madikeri

According to the Madikeri City Municipal Council, over 600 stray dogs have been spayed, while strays are being given anti-rabies injections. While the issue is being addressed scientifically in Madikeri, it is not the case in other parts of the district. Whenever rabid dog bite cases are reported, panchayats go on dog-catching drives. Since they are not done ethically and with proper equipment, they are opposed by animal activists. In many places, citizens themselves are taking care of strays.

Mysuru

There is no stray dog problem in Mysuru city, claimed Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Health Officer DG Nagaraj. The MCC dog squad attends to public complaints round the clock. The MCC is also setting up a dog park on a five-acre plot at Rayanakere on HD Kote Road on the city outskirts. It will have the latest medical facilities and also a shelter for stray dogs. Veterinarians from NGOs conduct around 20 ABC operations per day, he added.

Hassan

Activists blame the city municipal corporation for catching strays and releasing them into the wild last year. But now, nearly 20 per cent of those dogs have returned to the city. The stray dog population is said to be high at Pension Mohalla, Hosaline Road, Ring Road, Vallabhai Road and Tanniru Halla. Last year, 52 people, including 31 children, were bitten by stray dogs last year, said CMC officials. Hassan City Municipality president Mohan said the CMC is planning a special drive to catch stray dogs.

Mangaluru

Dakshina Kannada has reported 15,649 cases of dog bites from January till November this year. District Health Officer Dr Kishore Kumar said they have been giving ARV for all dog bite cases and this year no rabid dog bite have been reported. As a precautionary measure, all bites are assumed to be rabid because most symptoms develop after three or four months.

Suma R Nayak, trustee, Animal Care Trust, Mangaluru said, the stray dog problem isn't big but it is not being handled properly by the authorities. A systematic process should be followed to solve the problem. Few local bodies take interest and many panchayats have stopped the drive, citing lack of funds. Irresponsible pet owners leave puppies on the roads without sterilising the mother which adds to the problem, she said.

Belagavi

Several incidents of stray dog attacks on humans and animals have been reported across Belagavi district over the last one year. Varun Karkhanis, founder, Belgaum Animal Welfare Association, said Belagavi city has over 15,000 stray dogs. If the authorities continue the ABC programme without breaks, the menace will be eradicated, he added. Dr Sanjay Dumgol, Health Officer, Belagavi City Corporation, said the contract for sterilising stray dogs has been given to Bengaluru-based NGO 'Care for Voiceless'. He said the implementation of ABC is slow and it will take five to seven years to control the dog population.

BIG PICTURE

Shivamogga

Shivamogga City Corporation Commissioner Mayanna Gowda said the corporation spends Rs 5-6 lakh every year for the ABC programme, where 500-600 stray dogs are neutered. Many stray dogs are coming from rural and adjacent areas into the city as they find easy food. The ABC programme should be carried out continuously for two years in all city corporations and gram panchayat to tackle the problem. A census conducted 5-6 years ago revealed that there were 4,000 stray dogs. From January to October 2022, 15,810 dog bite cases were reported in the district.

Kalaburagi

Dog bite incidents are rampant in Kalaburagi city as a large population of stray dogs is found in many localities, including Mominpura, Darga, Hagarga, Aiwan-E-Shahi Road and Gazipura.

Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Commissioner Bhuvanesh Patil said the city has around 4,000 stray dogs and of them, 1,200 have been sterilised. Maharashtra-based Azad organisation is conducting the ABC programme. District Surgeon Dr Ambaraya Rudrawadi said from April to December, 10,939 people have been treated for dog bites. The highest number of 266 cases was reported in Chittapur taluk in November, said District Health Officer Dr Rajashekhar Male.

Gadag

The Gadag-Betageri twin city is facing the stray dog problem in Hamalara Colony, which has witnessed 11 dog bite cases in one month. An official from Gadag Betageri Municipal Council said, "We have collected information about the stray dog problem in some areas and it will be sent to higher officials. We will address the issue at the earliest".

Kolar and Chikkaballapur

Stray dog attacks on people and cattle are increasing in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts. A majority of stray dogs are being vaccinated by private doctors. K Jayaraman, a pharmacist, said that as compared to previous years, the sale of anti-rabies vaccine Rabipur has increased four times this year.

(Inputs from- Bosky Khanna-Bengaluru, Pragna G R-Madikeri, BK Lakshmikanth-Mysuru, Udaykumar-Hassan, Divya Cutinho-Mangaluru, Tushar A MajukXar-Belagavi, Arpitha I-Shivamogga, Ramakrishna Badsheshi-Kalaburagi, Raghottam Koppar-Gadag, Velayudham-Kolar)

Rain to pound Kerala till Tuesday, yellow alert in 9 dists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

THE state is likely to receive light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy rainfall at isolated places until Tuesday due to the impact of Cyclone 'Mandous' that hit the Tamil Nadu coast last week.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued yellow alerts for nine districts in north and central Kerala during the period. Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod are likely to get isolated heavy rainfall.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea due to squally weather. Coastal areas from Alappuzha to Kasaragod will experience rain and stronger winds until Tuesday.

"The moisture-laden wind has become westerly under the influence of cyclonic circulation. The circulation is likely to transform into a low pressure when it reaches Arabian Sea by Monday. So we will be getting rain till Tuesday. However, intense rainfall is unlikely to continue," said Rajeevan Erikkulam, meteorologist with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority.

With no cold storage units, Gadag onion growers at mercy of rain

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

GADAG district, the highest onion producer in North Karnataka, has no cold storage facilities for its produce yet. The Agriculture Market Produce Committee had constructed two buildings for cold storage, but the facility is yet to be readied.

For the present, farmers are a worried lot on how to store their crop due to the incessant rain. They have demanded that the authorities finish completing the cold storages soon.

In the district alone, onion is grown in 5 lakh hectares of land, and farmers sell their crops from November to January.

Many farmers were hit by incessant rains this time and they have expressed concern about the safety of their crops with no proper storage facilities. Due to this, small farmers are selling their produce without waiting for a good price, and others are forced to rent warehouses. Onion growers face the same problem every year and they are compelled to either sell the crops at a lower price or take them to other places to get a marginal profit.

Two buildings worth Rs 9.5 crore were built in 2018, but the facility has not yet been readied.

Moreover, onion growers have been taking their produce to Bengaluru. But this time, the Bengaluru market is also giving a low price for onions. A Gadag farmer got Rs 8 as profit after selling four quintals of onions at Bengaluru's Yeshwantpur market recently.

The high storage rent prices of warehouses at Rs 300 per day is also forcing farmers to forgo profit in Gadag district.

A onion farmer said, "We have been urging the APMC officials to provide cold storage facilities in these two buildings, which have been built to give free storage for onion growers. But the officials have not shown any interest to our concerns and we have also brought this to the notice of officials at the state level."

An official from Gadag APMC said, "We will soon provide cold storage facilities to the farmers, but many take their crops to wholesalers or to Bengaluru and we did not sense a demand. We will soon provide the facilities to them since they are now demanding it."

Onion growers sell their produce at the APMC market in Gadag | EXPRESS

'Flower growers too suffer losses'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

APMC Secretary Vijayalakshmi said many trucks, which transport a majority of the produce to Tamil Nadu, have not received enough stocks and are waiting for tomatoes to arrive over Monday and Tuesday.

A young farmer, Murali, in Shetty Halli near Srinivasapura of Kolar district, has lost the entire sweet corn crop on his six-acre land. "After waiting for two-and-a-half months, my crop has been destroyed completely because of the cyclone. I was getting ready to harvest it just 10 days from now," he said.

Deputy Director of Horticulture Kumaraswamy said even flower growers have suffered losses. Horticulture Department officials have been told to visit affected areas and to educate farmers on preventing fungal infections because of the inclement weather, he added.

EXPRESS READ

K'taka's 'gentleman sprinter' passes away at 82

Bengaluru: **Kenneth Lawrence Powell**, affectionately known as 'The Gentleman Sprinter', passed away in Bengaluru on Sunday due to age-related health issues. He was 82 and is survived by his wife. The prolific track and field athlete was the first male sportsman from the state to be conferred with the Arjuna Award in 1965 and had participated in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Born in Kolar, Powell was the only athlete from Karnataka to take part in the Olympics of 1964, and was part of the team that won the bronze in the in the 4x100 metre relay at the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok. Powell had won 19 titles in sprint events in several national open and inter-state championships over his career. Towards the end of his career, Powell, aged 47, also competed in the final age group of the World Masters (Veteran) Championship in Melbourne, competing in the 45 to 49 age group. **ENS**

Pvt hosps had given up: Kin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THANKING the doctors, Chandramma said she was apprehensive as many private hospitals had said the surgery could be life threatening.

"We had lost all hope after private hospitals in Bengaluru and Mangaluru did not give any positive response. Even the doctors at KIMS, Hubballi said they could not ensure the survival of Chandramma. We thank the team of doctors in Haveri for pulling off a miracle for our family," said a relative of Chandramma.

Chandramma recovers in hospital

2 Muslim youth threatened in Mangaluru

ENS @Mangaluru

IN another case of moral policing, two Muslim youth in the company of Hindu girls were allegedly threatened by Hindutva activists at Urwa Station limits in Mangaluru on Saturday night.

The incident occurred around 11.30 pm and victims said they were out for dinner. According to sources, the girls hail from Uttar Pradesh and one of them is said to be a minor. However, Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar said the girls' parents have decided not to lodge a complaint and no case has been registered.

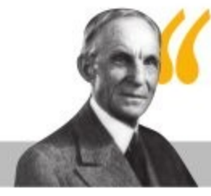
"The victims say they were not assaulted, but were questioned by the accused and so, they have decided not to pursue the case further," he said. Meanwhile, four Hindutva activists have been arrested over a moral policing incident at a jewellery shop a few days ago.

Pregnant tribal woman carried on cloth 'stretcher' for 3km

Sumathi being taken to the hospital in an ambulance from a tribal settlement in Attappadi, Kerala, on Sunday

Palakkad: A tribal woman, who experienced labour pains in the early hours of Sunday, had to be carried on a cloth 'stretcher' by seven men for nearly 3km through treacherous terrain as the ambulance could not reach her location. Sumathi from Kadakumanna in Attappadi, was brought to the hospital at Kottathara around six hours later, where she delivered a baby boy. Attempts to arrange an ambulance to take Sumathi to the nearest hospital in Attappadi failed. Finally, a 108 ambulance responded, but could reach only up to Aanavaayi owing to poor road connectivity. Deciding to act, seven men of the settlement carried Sumathi on a cloth sling. They reached Aanavaayi around 5pm, after crossing the hanging bridge across the Bhavani river, which connects them to the outside world, and walking for 3km through treacherous terrain. At Aanavaayi, junior public health nurse Priya Joy was waiting along with a hospital staff and the ambulance and took Sumathi to the hospital. **ENS**

EDITORIAL



"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young" — Henry Ford

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CLERGY'S STANCE OUT OF SYNC WITH WHAT MUSLIM WOMEN WANT

The signals repeatedly emanating from a section of Muslim organisations in Kerala are disheartening. They smack of misogyny and patriarchy, out of sync with ground realities. Recently, Sunni leader Nasar Faizy Koodathayi came out against the pledge administered to the volunteers of Kudumbasree Mission, the women empowerment programme of the Kerala government. Women were asked to take an oath to ensure equal distribution of family property without gender discrimination.

Koodathayi found the pledge anti-Islamic because, according to the Sharia law, women are entitled to half the share given to the male member of the family. He argued that as per the Muslim personal law in India, the community members are allowed to go by their religious rules regarding marriage, divorce, succession, and burial rituals. Other Muslim scholars also joined the issue, some even asserting that Muslim women who take the oath would automatically become 'Kafir' and face excommunication. Earlier, too, Muslim organisations had expressed similar sentiments. They protested when a school in Kozhikode introduced gender-neutral uniforms for students. Muslim groups were also up in arms against the Kerala government's curriculum revision, suspecting a covert move to smuggle in 'liberal ideology' of gender neutrality and gender equality. The orthodox groups previously also held that women should not learn writing, and quoted scriptures to buttress their argument. But women came out of the shackles to get educated and live with dignity. Personalities like Maliyekkal Mariyumma and Haleema Beevi, the first woman editor in Kerala, have recorded the intensity of their struggle against the orthodoxy.

Now colleges in Kerala are teeming with girl students, many from the Muslim community. With a vengeance, they have occupied the space once denied to them. Muslim women are increasingly visible in popular agitations too. The women have not discarded their religion. They explore the rights promised to them in the religion but withheld by the clergy. Their fight is against patriarchal interpretations that go against them. The ill-timed utterances of the clergy will only make things difficult for Muslim women and provide ammunition to those trying to defame the religion.

GOVT AS THE DISRUPTOR IN A MARKET ECONOMY

The Union Budget is around the corner. And while it brings a sense of anticipation, pro-market enthusiasts deride this excitement, saying the Budget should ideally be a routine event to announce government accounts. They don't want the government to play a very big role in the economy, and want it to stick to a few basic policy announcements. This 'minimalistic' approach, also known as neo-liberalism, often stems from the unshakeable belief in markets and competition. Yet, it has been proven time and again that government interventions reshape markets, make them more inclusive, and empower citizens to participate in a 'competitive' market economy.

Aadhaar and UPI are two prime examples in recent years that have proven that government intervention can benefit both citizens (or consumers) and businesses. Aadhaar, which the government undertook about 13 years ago, provided the platform for India's now successful digital infrastructure. Indian corporates are using Aadhaar to acquire customers, develop business models, and increase the reach of their businesses to new geographies. Unified Payments Interface, another government intervention, changed the course of payments and money transfers in India. UPI was preceded by another revolutionary idea of the government, to set up NPCI, the umbrella body which created a robust, low-cost payment and settlement infrastructure in the country. Equipped with Aadhaar and NPCI's RuPay payment system, financial inclusion increased in leaps and bounds, and so has the formalisation of the economy. The government is now building an open-source platform for e-commerce in India. This allows small sellers, restaurant owners, etc., to access a larger customer base without having to dole out 30–40% in a commission that they share with existing platforms.

While some may question the need for the government to create such platforms when the private sector is already doing so, as long as the government remains just the facilitator and enabler, one cannot find fault in this approach. The government cannot sit on the fence when it comes to the larger interest of the people. In a 'perfect' market economy, people are treated as consumers whose fate should be decided by competition in the market. The government can, however, play the role of disruptor once in a while, to shake the status quo in the market. We have already seen the benefits of it.

QUICK TAKE

PREPARE FOR EXTREME SUMMERS

Extreme Indian summers leading to 2030 may test human survivability limits. A World Bank report says higher temperatures will arrive in India early and stay for longer. Temperatures crossing 46 degrees Celsius last year are warning enough for the government to implement emergency measures in two areas. Most of the Indian workforce, nearly 350 million involved in heat-exposed labour, will require survival and sustenance tools to prevent loss of life and productivity. Critical investments in cooling technologies and efficient cold chain distribution networks can minimise food and pharmaceutical losses; heat variations spoil fresh produce and weaken vaccine and drug potency.

Separate personal laws are a legacy of the British empire, which based its administrative strategies on the classical principle of *divide et impera* or divide and rule

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Professor of English at JNU

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

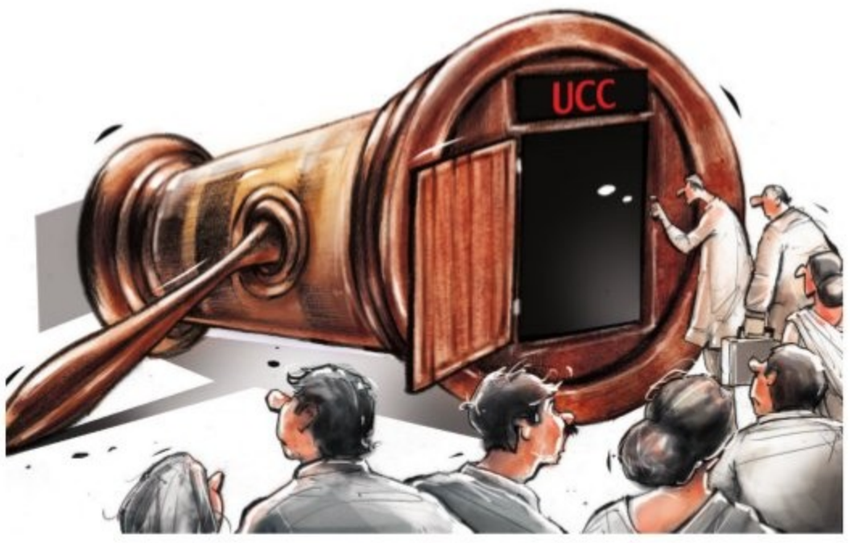
No sooner than Kirodi Lal Meena, Rajasthan BJP MP, introduced the Uniform Civil Code Bill in the Rajya Sabha, the 'minority-cum-secularist' lobby went into overdrive. Their purpose was clear: to discredit the Bill and him. Slanted headlines appeared in national dailies and portals such as 'Rajya Sabha chaos over Uniform Civil Code Bill' or 'BJP Rajya Sabha MP Kirodi Lal Meena caused an uproar in the Opposition benches'. Despite three attempts to scuttle the Bill, it was successfully introduced after the members voted 63 to 23 in its favour.

What exactly, a concerned citizen might ask, is the 'uproar' about? The first thing to note is that separate personal laws are a legacy of the British empire, which based its administrative strategies on the classical principle of *divide et impera* or divide and rule. Paradoxically, Goa, which joined the Indian Union in December 1961, is the only state to have a UCC—that too imposed by another colonial power, the Portuguese, as far back as 1867.

Independent India tried to bring in a Uniform Civil Code, which had the backing of both Jawaharlal Nehru, our first prime minister, and B R Ambedkar, our first law minister. What happened instead was that the Hindu Code Bill brought about a uniform civil law on those identified as Hindus, under which term the Constitution also included Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains. The Muslims, Christians, and Parsis were left out, much to the detriment of the women who belonged to those communities, as the Shah Bano case later proved. The abolishing of the notoriously unjust practice of 'triple talaq' was only a late attempt to redress some of those ills.

This year, the clamour for the UCC has arisen, either from government quarters or from influential sections, in several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, and even Kerala. In most cases, the most vociferous opposition has come from minority lobbies such as the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), which dubbed it 'an unconstitutional and anti-minorities move', and the usual so-called 'secular' critics. Quite expectedly, foreign media majors have also taken a stance against it as yet another Hindutva impostion.

Coming back to the just introduced Bill, let it be stated on record that this is a *private* member's Bill, not officially backed by any political party. No wonder its detractors are immediately asking: 'Who is Kirodi Lal Meena?' For those who don't know him, this 70-year-old politician is not only a medical graduate with an MBBS, but also widely respected in his state and community, where he has also been conferred with the honorific 'Baba'. What is more, this is the second time that Meena has tried to introduce the Bill. He failed in March 2020, when more or less the same clutch of opposition members threatened to block it. This time, however, he has succeeded.



SOURAV ROY

Meena, of course, belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He is also a member of the numerically and politically powerful Meena Scheduled Tribe in Rajasthan. There is a belief that SCs and STs should 'naturally' be minoritarian and therefore oppose Hindutva, Uniform Civil Code, Constitutional Amendment Act, and so on. That Kirodi Lal Meena, quite contrarily, is a proud proponent not only of Meena identity, tribal reclamation of present and past, plus an advocate of Hindutva, makes him automatically malign in the eyes of some. That he was considered a rebel against Vasundhara Raje, former BJP chief minister of his state, and spent almost a decade outside the BJP earlier, has also been used to discredit him. Those who call him a 'duplicitous' pretender easily forget that he has won elections not just to the Rajasthan assembly but also to the Lok Sabha as an independent from Dausa in 2009.

Now let us see what some of the honourable members of our Upper House who opposed the Bill said. Tiruchi Siva of the DMK, who also opposed the Bill in 2020, reportedly said that the very idea of Uniform Civil Code is opposed to secularism. Really? Does he not know that the UCC is Article 44 of our Constitution as a part of its Directive Principles: 'The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.' In other words, according to the Constitution, it is the duty of the Indian republic to introduce and implement the UCC. Does this mean that our very Constitution is 'opposed to secularism'?

In another move to block the Bill, it was claimed that it 'would disintegrate the country and hurt its diverse culture'. Again, the illogic of the opposition to the Bill defies belief. Is the unity of the country underwritten only by differential, some would say preferential, treatment of minorities? Or that Indian diversity really means that communities are treated differently in the eyes of the law? In fact, it is the latter claim that is palpably against the very spirit of the Constitution.

What is wrong with a uniform law, applicable to all citizens regardless of religion or community, in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and so on? I think most Indians would welcome it. UCC does not mean that customary practices will be abolished, but any citizen who feels aggrieved by them can seek justice and redressal rather than having to put up with an oppressive practice. As to local customs in special areas, the Constitution itself provides safeguards, as in Nagaland, Meghalaya, or Mizoram, for example.

A private member's Bill does not easily become law. It goes into the cold storage box of 'pending Bills', only taken up later for discussions if it is selected by another ballot. But there is a groundswell of opinion being mobilised in its favour across the country. And, if we go by the quotation famously attributed to Victor Hugo: 'No force on earth can stop an idea whose time has come.' So, let us face it: this is an idea whose time has come.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE RIGHT TO SAY NO VERSUS THE RIGHT TO SAY YES

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

December 10 was Human Rights Day, which made me think of a rather neglected right—the right to say no to being forcibly "married off", which is a common situation in our country. If two people can love and respect each other and make a mutually pleasing life together, it is, as they say, "a consummation devoutly to be wished". But what if someone is just not into it and struggles to be an immovable object against the irresistible force of society? There is an unusual story about this that I would like to retell here. It is from the *Ananusochiya Jataka* or *Jataka 328* in the Pali canon. As always, it is fascinating to observe how old stories address a range of human situations, and not always as you think they might.

This tale was apparently imparted by the Buddha himself, at his regular retreat in the Jetavana grove, which is now the Sahet-Mahet historical park in Uttar Pradesh. The Buddha told this story to a grieving local landowner who was unable to come to terms with a personal loss.

The tale goes that the Bodhisattva or Buddha in a previous life was born as Ananda, the son of a rich priest in holy Benares. He was raised very tenderly as the only child and sent to Taxila for higher education. When he returned, his parents declared that he should marry.

Ananda stoutly resisted this cosy plan, for he was of a fastidious, ascetic temperament and was wholly untempted by the pleasures of normal life. This unusual choice upset his parents deeply. They badgered him day and night to get married.

Finally, to buy peace, Ananda went to a goldsmith. His detailed instructions produced a golden statue of the "perfect woman", lovely in every respect. "Now find me a golden girl like this statue and I suppose I'll have to marry her," he told his parents.

"How did you, an avowed ascetic, describe so much female beauty?" asked his annoyed mother.

"Detached observation, Mother," said Ananda with a droll look.

Undeterred, his parents made a plan. They put together a team to take the statue around for many miles around Benares and locate the very girl for Ananda. But weeks and months went by, and only the message "No luck yet" reached the anxious parents.

On its weary way back to Benares, the team stopped at a small town, and without hope, displayed the statue as usual. But a number of people stopped to stare and finally asked, "What are you doing with a statue of Samilla?"

Greatly excited, the team discovered that Samilla or Samillabhashini, the only child of a local priest, was beautiful beyond compare. But she was highly reserved and did not wish to be married. "I will be an ascetic after you die, please don't force me to marry," she pleaded. "Are you insane?" said her parents and packed her off.

File picture

> Ananda resisted this cosy plan, for he was of a fastidious, ascetic temperament and was wholly untempted by the pleasures of normal life. This unusual choice upset his parents. They badgered him day and night to get married

Ananda and Samilla were both married against their wishes. On their wedding night, Samilla spoke her mind to Ananda: "I am an ascetic by temperament and choice. I rejected the marriage bed then and reject it now. My parents forced me to marry against my will."

"You too?" said Ananda in relief.

They talked long into the night and made a pact to stay celibate, going to sleep at opposite ends of the bed in inviolate peace.

After that, Ananda's parents did not suspect a thing for the young pair proved to be a devoted couple. They took an interest in each other's doings and views and grew to be fast friends. If Ananda's parents wondered why no children blessed the marriage, they forbore to ask, given the couple's affection.

In the tenth year of his marriage, Ananda lost his parents to a sudden epidemic that swept Kashi. After their funeral, he had a serious talk with Samilla.

"I am now free to take to the road as an ascetic. All my money is yours and I set you free to marry again," he said.

"I will go with you instead," said Samilla firmly, and Ananda gladly agreed.

Giving up everything, they walked north to the Himalayan foothills and spent several happy years there in the lap of Nature. But, says the *Jataka*, they came back to Benares for salt so that their teeth would last. They begged for food every day and slept in the parks.

One day, Samilla ate some spoilt rice given in alms. Very soon, she was in agonies, wracked by dysentery. Ananda led her to a cool hall and went away to beg. When he returned, he found that Samilla was dead, unable to bear the pain that tore at her delicate frame. Several people stood around in distress.

"Who is this lovely ascetic, sir?" they asked Ananda. "When I was a layman, she was my wife," said Ananda, calmly eating the day's alms.

"Why do you not grieve? It disturbs us, please explain," said the people.

Ananda rinsed his mouth and answered collectedly, "Nothing is permanent. We all have to go one day, if not today, tomorrow."

Ananda then swung Samilla up on his shoulder like how Shiva must have carried Sati and took her to the burning ghat. After her funeral, he went back to the hills and eventually died there.

"I was Ananda," said the Buddha to the grieving landowner, "And Yashodhara, my wife when I was a layman, was Samilla."

The *Jataka*, being a moral tale, ends starkly here. We are left to surmise on Ananda's feelings. He was forced to reconcile theory with reality and it couldn't have been easy. It must take great self-control, and *sadhana* or practice, to accomplish true detachment after losing a life companion. We must hope that he achieved it. His story, however, remains to haunt us and we may also try to catch a tantalising glimpse of what Ananda and Samilla may have looked like if we visit the Ajanta Caves.

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

A disappointed Ronaldo fan

It is an obvious blunder that Ronaldo was made a bench player for reasons known only to the coach. The star player might have felt demotivated, and the outcome was Portugal's defeat in the quarterfinals, paving way for the Moroccan team to enter the semifinals. This has disappointed thousands of Ronaldo fans like me all over the world.
Rajakumar Arulanandham, Palayamkottai

Upholding the Constitution

Apropos of *Executive, judiciary must uphold Constitution* (Dec 11). There is nothing wrong in the Collegium selecting judges. 'How can a judge select a judge' is an empty political rhetoric. As the columnist rightly observes, the Indian judiciary enjoys much more credibility than the legislature. If the legislature is allowed to intervene in the selection process, then the courts would soon become the office of the party in power.
G Nataraja Perumal, email

Tales of Kolatthunadu

Apropos of *Chronicler of Kolatthunadu* (Dec 11). The columnist has admirably made it clear that the lyrics of Theyyam and Kothaamoori verses, preserved only orally, would not have seen the light of day in cold print, but for the dedicated efforts of Chirakkal T Balakrishnan Nair.
N Rama Rao, Chennai

BJP's hidden losses

The BJP's win in the Gujarat assembly elections has been hyped by various news channels. The party may have won the elections by a record margin, but it is a real loser. A few years ago, it was in power in New Delhi's MCD and Himachal Pradesh, but now it has lost two elections. Moreover, the results have shown that the masses vote for local causes and not freebies.
Dr Navneet Seth, Dhuri

Modi's praise for Gehlot

Apropos of *Modi praises Gehlot again, creates ripples in Rajasthan Congress* (Dec 11). As the prime minister of India, Modi has rightly praised Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for his fine arrangements in conducting the G20 meeting in Udaipur. It is not good for Congress leaders to negatively colour the PM's words of praise for Gehlot.
P Victor Selvaraj, email

Infrastructure for safety

Apropos of *6-yr-old dies after 84 hrs in borewell* (Dec 11). Our nation is developing fast, but we were unable to save Tanmay Sahu. Such an incident has not just occurred once but countless times. We must create infrastructure that will contribute to development and benefit citizens.
P Moses, Andhra Pradesh

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 58, No. 293 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sambit Patra @sambitswaraj
No country can run by short-cuts. For its progress, sustainable development, working for sustainable solutions, a long term vision is very important.

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
In a state where a woman MP can be abused by a minister many times and no action is taken, what can we expect?

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
PM, today the youth of the country have tears in their eyes and blisters on their feet, but they will not stop till they get their right to employment.

Parties making false promises to form govt: PM

Modi: No shortcut to development, political parties are wasting hard-earned taxpayers' money for political interests

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that there was no shortcut to development, warning that political parties were wasting the hard-earned taxpayers' money for political interests with the aim of forming the government by making false promises.

"When the country is working towards becoming a developed nation in the next 25 years, some political parties want to destroy the economy of the country for their own self-interests," said the PM while dedicating ₹75,000-crore worth of development projects in Maharashtra.

He said the election results in Gujarat reflect the robust economic policy, permanent development, and solutions.

The PM was in Nagpur to mark the beginning of new projects in Maharashtra. These include national rail projects worth more than ₹1,500 crores, National Institute of One Health (NIO), Nagpur and Nag river pollution abatement project.

"Today a constellation of eleven new stars is rising for the development of Maharashtra which will help in achieving new heights and provide a new direction", he said.

The PM highlighted that these mega projects are proof of the pace of work by the double-engine government of Maharashtra.

"Today a constellation of 11 new stars is rising for the development of Maharashtra which will help in achieving new heights and provide a new direction," he said. He said these mega projects were proof of the pace of work by the 'double-engine' governments in Maharashtra and at the Centre.

"Infrastructure cannot just cover lifeless roads and flyovers. Its expansion is much bigger. After the formation of the double-engine government in 2017, the work on Gosekhurd Dam has been accelerated," he said.

The Gosekhurd dam is an earthfill dam on the Wainganga river near Pauni in Bhandara district of Maharashtra. The dam contains 33 spillway gates to regulate water flow into the river for irrigation throughout the year. The Prime Minister lamented the lost opportunities for India not being able to take advantage of the first industrial revolution and lagging behind in subsequent such revolutions. "When it is time for the fourth industrial revolution, India cannot miss it," he said.

"A developed India can become a reality through unity, progress and development of all states. When we have a narrow approach towards development, opportunities are also limited," he said. "In the last eight years, we have changed the mindset and approach with 'sabka saath, sabka vishwas and sabka prayas' (with everyone's efforts and trust)," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi plays a dhol with a performer during his visit to Nagpur on Sunday | PTI

Key projects

Samruddhi Mahamarg
The over 700km Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway being built at a cost of about ₹55,000 crore is one of India's longest expressways, passing through Maharashtra's 10 districts

Rail projects
At Nagpur railway station, the PM flagged off Vande Bharat Express that will run between Nagpur and Bilaspur

Nagpur Metro
PM dedicated 'Nagpur Metro Phase I' to the nation. He also flagged off two metro trains. The phase-I is developed at a cost of more than ₹8,650 crore

AIIMS Nagpur
The foundation stone was laid in July 2017. It has been established under the Central sector scheme Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Associate Editor and Chief of Bureau at TNIE, New Delhi.
Email: shahid@newindianexpress.com

Lotus Looms

SUKHU CHECKS IN, BUT A ROYAL COUP POSES THREAT

The BJP has pressed former Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh into action to keep a tab on developments in the Himachal Congress, especially on the party's MLAs after the bitter battle over chief ministership. Congress state president Pratibha Singh, a strong contender for the CM post but who lost out to Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, is related by marriage to Amarinder Singh. Amarinder's grandson Angad Singh is married to Aparajita Kumari, daughter of Pratibha Singh and former CM Virbhadra Singh, who belong to the erstwhile royal family of Rampur Bushahr in upper Himachal. Amarinder has reportedly been asked to be in touch with Pratibha Singh. The BJP wants to use the possible disgruntlement over Sukhu's elevation. The Congress has formed a government in Himachal by winning 40 seats in a 68-member legislative assembly. The BJP got 25. Three seats went to independents; they are BJP men who contested as independents after being denied party nomination. One of the 40 Congress MLAs is Pratibha Singh's son Vikramaditya. For the BJP to implement 'Operation Lotus' in the hill state, all it needs is the support of seven Congress MLAs, including Vikramaditya, whose father, the six-time CM of the state, still has a large number of admirers both within and outside the legislature party. Senior Congress leaders say the party has got a majority in the state, but it is not a comfortable majority. The party will have to be forever watchful and guard its flock. This time, the attack may come from someone who knows them inside out: Amarinder Singh. Delivering Himachal will be his first job for the saffron party.

Government Media

DHANKHAR FUMES AT FAILED MERGER, SANSAD TV MESS

A parliamentary delegation from Zimbabwe led by Parliament Speaker Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda was on a visit to India last week. During the visit, Sansad TV got a chance to interview him. The crew wanted a good backdrop for the interview. There was one available with the image of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. The crew decided to use it. But then someone pointed out that it would not be right to have the Rajya Sabha chairman in the background and not the Lok Sabha Speaker. A hunt was launched for a good backdrop showing the LS Speaker. But the crew could not find anything appropriate. Then it was decided to drop Dhankhar too. This one incident reflects how Sansad TV, an entity formed by merging Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV, has fallen between the two stools. The pressure from both sides is such that it has turned into a rivalry. The two TV channels continue to function separately and pull in different directions. Sansad TV is being run by a governing council comprising the administrative officers of the two channels and their IAS heads. Both channels try to outdo each other by getting a more senior officer than the other. If RS TV gets a joint secretary rank officer on board, LS TV brings in an Additional Secretary. This is to claim hierarchical superiority to be able to call the shots. As per Constitutional hierarchy, the Rajya Sabha chairman is placed above the Lok Sabha Speaker by being the Vice-President of India. But most of the physical property of the channel, including equipment, is owned by LS TV. The LS TV staff operating the equipment tend to favour their bosses. At the All-India Speakers' Conference in Kevadia, Gujarat, the then RS Secretary General was not invited to the dais by the LS TV staff managing the event. This sparked another row. A CEO was earlier brought in to ensure coordination. But he was removed after a short stint. As a result, the two Houses continue to pay salaries to the staff hired through them. As problems persisted, Dhankhar reportedly wanted to smoothen things and called for the merger document. The deadline he had set for giving him the papers is long past, and he is yet to get the papers. At a recent meeting with the staff, Dhankhar said he was very disappointed with Sansad TV and the way it was functioning. He raised questions about the ad hoc appointments. Sources said he had discussed the matter with the LS Speaker, but a solution is still nowhere in sight.

Good news for India: Deuba-led coalition may form Nepal govt

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

SHER Bahadur Deuba-led coalition is likely to form the next government in Nepal.

"Coalitions are a permanent feature of Nepal politics now. Dueba-led Nepali Congress coalition has 132 seats and he needs around 10 more to form the government. Quite a few parties are ready to support them including, CK Raut-led Janamat party which has seven seats, NagarikUnmukti Party which has four and Independent party which has 20 seats," say former Nepalese bureaucrat, V K Karna. The parties that are going to be a part of the coalition may do so on their own demands, however, as of now, getting the requisite number of seats would not be a problem for Deuba.

"As the process of counting votes has neared completion, a report would be submitted by Nepal's Election Commission to President Bidhya Devi Bhandari at 5 pm on December 12. After going through the party lists and numbers, the President will invite them to the Parliament (on December 13) to share their result and those with maximum numbers will form the government. The formation can take a week or less as decided by the President," Karna added.

The Deuba-led government is likely to enable smooth ties with India.

When he succeeded Oli in 2021, he made his first visit as PM to India where he also visited Varanasi. Deuba had also invited India to invest in the 750 MW West Seti Hydropower Project. India wanted to buy power from Nepal, however, it was hesitant to do so from companies that had Chinese investments. New projects like Seti and Pancheswar are being developed by India at present.

India's main concerns have been growing influence of China in their infrastructure development and also Pakistan's ISI activities.

In the last border talks too India had raised concerns of Chinese and Pakistani inflitrators from the Nepal border.

Over coming week, Nepal will form a new government and after Deuba is sworn in as the Prime Minister, diplomatic and bilateral ties will be on the ascendant with India.

No scope for third front, only main front against BJP: Nitish

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

EVEN as Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar continues to assert that he is not a PM aspirant in the next Lok Sabha election, his close aides have been obliquely speaking about it, triggering speculation whether JD (U) may take a tough stand on the leadership issue.

While addressing the JD-U's plenary session in the state capital on Sunday, Nitish said, "There is no scope for a third front in 2024 as there will only be the 'main front' against the BJP."

He said anti-BJP parties could win the 2024 Lok Sabha election with a huge majority if they came on a single platform.

"I will keep making efforts to make it possible. It depends on opposition parties," he said.

Nitish also accused the BJP of working against the JD-U in the 2020 assembly elections even when his party was in the NDA. He said it was the reason his party could not perform "satisfactorily" in the previous assembly elections.

Taking a dig at BJP without naming it, he said, "They should be reminded that never before had our party won fewer seats, either in assembly polls of 2005 or 2010. In 2020, we got fewer seats as they (BJP) made attempts to ensure the defeat of our candidates."

Reiterating his demand for according special status for Bihar, the CM alleged that Bihar was denied all help by the Centre. He said the country could not be put on a growth trajectory until poor states were developed.

Meanwhile, senior JD (U) minister Sanjay Jha, considered close to Nitish, told party leaders and workers in the plenary session that "we should work for achieving two goals – one that the JD (U) is accorded the status of a national party, and second, we should ensure that Nitish unfurls the national flag at the Red fort."

He said the Opposition was clueless as to what would happen in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and how democracy would be saved.

"After Nitish has snapped ties with NDA, there is a glimmer of hope as they understand only Nitish is capable of saving the situation in 2024," he remarked.

Similarly, state JD-U chief Umesh Kushwaha called Nitish a 'yug purush,' asserting that no leader could compete with Nitish, indirectly advocating for his projection as the PM nominee for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Meanwhile, calendars with a slogan that the country should have a Nitish-like leader were also distributed among party leaders participating in the plenary session.

Nitish's Mahagathbandhan partner RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav had praised him in August, saying Nitish could emerge as a "strong candidate" for prime minister in 2024 if opposition parties agreed to consider him for the job.

"It signals that most of the Opposition parties recognise the larger challenge before the country -- the hegemony of the BJP, where on the back of money, media, and (administrative) machinery power, they are determined to stamp out all diversity from the Indian society as well as from the political spectrum," the RJD leader had said.

There is no scope for a third front in 2024 as there will only be the 'main front' against BJP next time. I will keep making efforts to make it possible and now it depends on the opposition parties.
Nitish Kumar, Bihar chief minister

Russia offers India large ships on lease

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

RUSSIA has offered India to lease and build very large crude carriers (VLCC) as insurance on Russian oil.

"Traditionally India couldn't get large quantities of crude from Russia as there weren't any VLCC's. However, now with India's imports from Russia reaching nearly 30 per cent of total requirement, VLCC is the need of the hour. This can also remove insurance liability on India as after price cap most insurers have backed out from insuring Russian crude," say sources.

This offer was given when Russian Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak met India's Ambassador to Russia, Pavan Kapoor on December 9th.

In 2021, bilateral trade between Russia, India increased by 46.5 per cent, exceeding $13.5 billion. From January to September 2022 trade reached $20.4 billion.

Only 3 in 10 prisoners tested for HIV in 53 jails, says NACO report

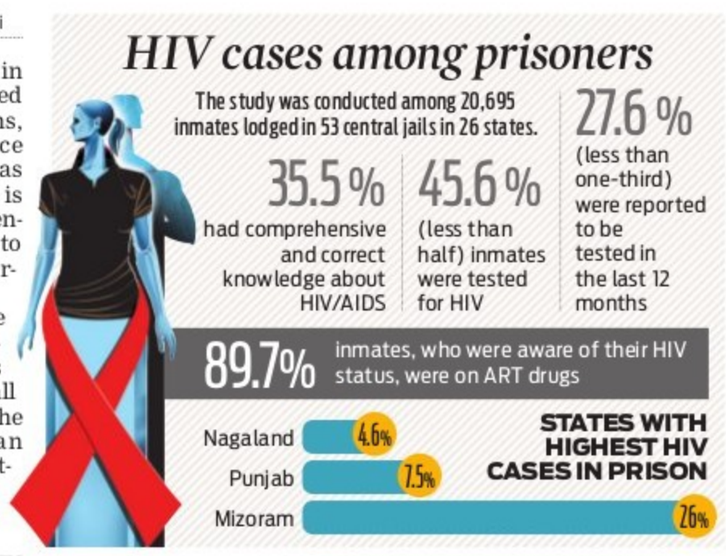
KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @New Delhi

ONLY three in 10 prisoners in 53 central jails have been tested for HIV in the last 12 months, even though HIV prevalence among people behind bars was about 1.93 per cent, which is nine times higher than the general population, according to the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) report.

Moreover, HIV prevalence among prisoners was comparable to female sex workers in India, who continue to fall under a heavy HIV burden. The findings also established an over-representation of injecting drug users (IDU) in Indian prisons than the general population.

The technical report on HIV sentinel surveillance plus 2021 central prison sites found that the knowledge about HIV/AIDS was much below desired levels among inmates, of which over 59 per cent were convicted and the rest were under trials.

Describing it as a "critical gap and a priority area for future interventions", the study conducted among 20,695 inmates lodged in 53 central jails in 26 states found that only three out of five HIV-positive were on antiretroviral (ART) drugs. The findings also indicated sexual activities in prison, with five out of every 100 inmates reporting its prevalence, and only three-fifths reported using condoms with their paid partners. The study found highest HIV prevalence was noted in Mizoram (26 per cent), followed by Punjab (7.5 per cent), Nagaland (4.6 per cent) and Chandigarh (3.5 per cent).


HIV cases among prisoners
The study was conducted among 20,695 inmates lodged in 53 central jails in 26 states.
35.5 % had comprehensive and correct knowledge about HIV/AIDS
45.6 % (less than half) inmates were tested for HIV
27.6 % (less than one-third) were reported to be tested in the last 12 months
89.7% inmates, who were aware of their HIV status, were on ART drugs
STATES WITH HIGHEST HIV CASES IN PRISON
Nagaland 4.6%
Punjab 7.5%
Mizoram 26%

UK trade secy in Delhi today for talks on FTA

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

UK Trade Secretary **Kemi Badenoch** will be in Delhi today for the sixth round of talks on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

"She will meet Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in person for the first time, aiming to strengthen ties between the two countries and reinvigorate talks on an ambitious bilateral trade deal.

She will address both teams of senior negotiators ahead of the sixth round of formal negotiations taking place throughout the week," according to the British High Commission.

The talks — the first formal round since July — will target a deal to cut tariffs and open opportunities for UK services like financial and legal, making it easier for British businesses to sell to an economy set to be the world's third largest, with a middle class of 250 million people, by 2050.

During her visit, the Trade Secretary will also meet business leaders to understand their need for a modern UK - India trade relationship. This will include a meeting with envoPAP, a UK company investing over £10 million in India to construct a plant producing Fairtrade paper and packaging products.

"Both nations have to come to the table with high ambitions and a willingness to work together towards a mutually beneficial deal. I am excited about the opportunities we can create for British business. India and UK are the 5th and 6th biggest economies in the world. We should encourage growth and boost our £29 billion relationship," Badenoch said.

'India, EU may not have trade pact soon'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA and EU have recently concluded the third round of negotiations for the ongoing Free Trade Agreement. Sweden is taking over the EU presidency in a few weeks time and working on the FTA will be amongst their top most priorities.

"India is significant for us and that's the reason it is the first country that I have travelled to outside of Europe. We are soon going to be taking over the EU Presidency and amongst the things foremost on our mind is to get the FTA moving faster. We will broker the deal which should be based on trust. And as of now I don't see the FTA coming through in our Presidency as there are 27 EU members nations that have to work out an agreement with India," said Johan Forssell, Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade. He added that they hoped for a comprehensive FTA for which negotiations could take longer.

JAWAN CRITICAL

A suspended Army jawan and one more person has been arrested for allegedly firing two shots on Sunday at a Maharashtra Security Force personnel on duty at Mine Number 6 of Western Coalfields Limited in Kanhan in Nagpur.

2 HELD — GANG-RAPE OF DEAF, MUTE WOMAN IN RAJ

Ahmedabad	37	24	Mumbai	33	26
Bhopal	34	18	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	37	21	Patna	34	25
Amritsar	34	18	Lucknow	36	25
Chennai	37	26	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	33	26	Imphal	31	20
Srinagar	27	05	Chandigarh	34	18

Criminal cases pending against 40 new Gujarat MLAs

29 members are facing serious charges, including attempt to murder and rape, says ADR

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

ASSOCIATION for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the Gujarat Election Watch said in a report that in the 182-member Gujarat Assembly As many as 40 newly-elected MLAs have criminal cases pending against them as per their election affidavits.

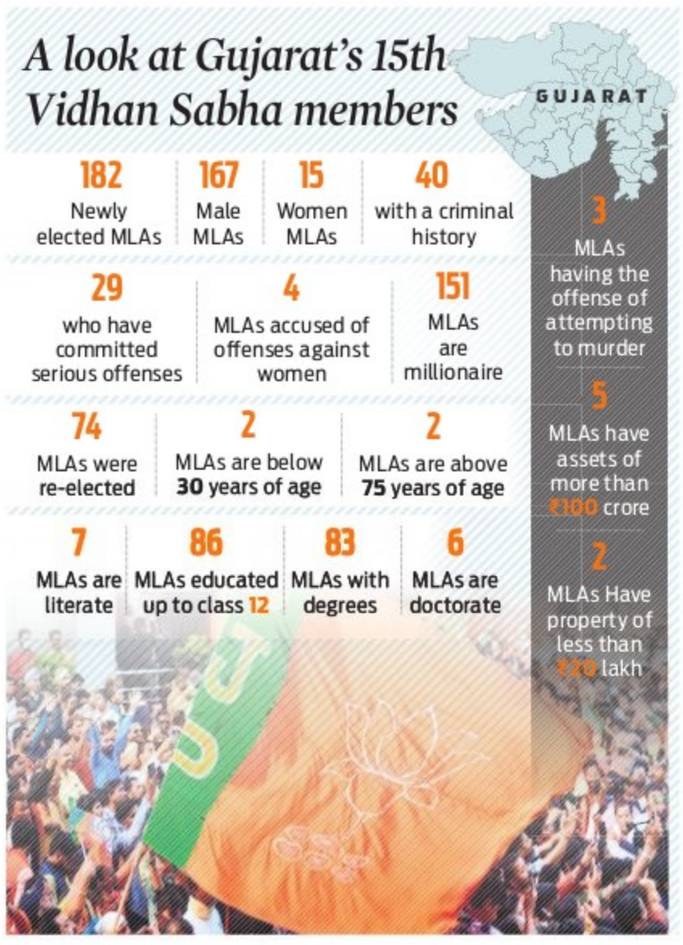
Of these 40 MLAs, 29 members (16 per cent of a total 182) are facing serious criminal cases, such as the attempt to murder and rape, the ADR analysis showed.

Among the 29 members, 20 belong to BJP, four to Congress, two are from Aam Aadmi Party, two are Independents, and one is from Samajwadi Party.

In the just-concluded Assembly elections, counting for which was held on December 8, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won a seventh straight term in Gujarat by winning a record 156 seats. The Congress won 17 constituencies and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) five.

The ADR study shows 26 (17 per cent) of the 156 MLAs of BJP, 9 (53 per cent) of 17 MLAs of Congress, two of five MLAs of AAP (40 per cent), two (68 per cent) of three Independents and lone Samajwadi Party candidate- Kandhal Jadeja- have declared criminal cases pending against them. The ADR works for electoral reforms and prepares such reports after analyzing affidavits of all 182 newly-elected MLAs.

The study said the number of MLAs facing criminal cases decreased compared to 2017 when 47 elected members were found to be facing such cases. At least three winning candidates have declared they are facing cases of attempt to murder under section 307 of the Indian Penal Code. These candidates are Congress MLA from Vansda, Anant Patel, Congress MLA from Patan, Kirit Patel, and BJP MLA from Una, Kalubhai Rathod. The study also shows four winning candidates have declared cases related to crimes against women under section 354 (outraging modesty of women) or under section 376 (rape) of the IPC. Of these four, BJP's Jetha Bharwad faces rape charges while the Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani, BJP MLA Janak Talaviywa, and AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava face charges under section 354 of the IPC.


A look at Gujarat's 15th Vidhan Sabha members
GUJARAT
182 Newly elected MLAs
167 Male MLAs
15 Women MLAs
40 with a criminal history
29 who have committed serious offenses
4 MLAs accused of offenses against women
151 MLAs are millionaire
74 MLAs were re-elected
2 MLAs are below 30 years of age
2 MLAs are above 75 years of age
7 MLAs are literate
86 MLAs educated up to class 12
83 MLAs with degrees
6 MLAs are doctorate
3 MLAs having the offense of attempting to murder
5 MLAs have assets of more than ₹100 crore
2 MLAs Have property of less than ₹20 lakh

BJP got fewer votes on 37 seats than in 2017

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

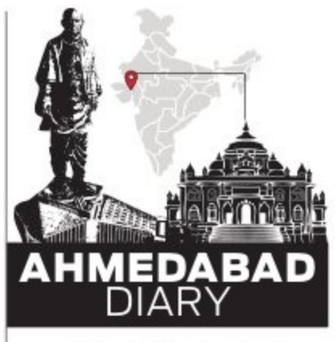
THE Bharatiya Janata Party has created history by winning 156 seats in Gujarat assembly elections, besides the party winning 52.50% of the vote share. This has officially and never happened before in the history of Gujarat, where the percentage of people who voted for BJP was greater than 50%.

But in 37 seats in Gujarat itself, the BJP candidate received fewer votes than 2017. Of these seats, the Congress party won nine and AAP two. Three were awarded to "others". The BJP has suffered defeats in 14 of these 37 seats.

Out of these 37 seats, there are 19 seats in which Aam Aadmi Party candidates have lost their deposits. While in 11 seats BJP has faced defeat by more than 10,000 votes, The BJP has been defeated by 25,064 votes in the important Dhari assembly seat in Saurashtra. The BJP candidate on Dhanera seat of north Gujarat got 60,357 votes, the Congress got 38,260 votes while Aam Aadmi Party got only 1,130 votes while the victorious independent candidate got 96,053 votes.

Importantly, this time NOTA has played an important role in defeating BJP candidates on more than three seats. The BJP candidate Ashwin Kotwal has lost 1,664 votes from the Khed-Brahma seat reserved for tribals in North Gujarat, where 7,331 votes were cast in NOTA. While BJP candidate Mansingh Parmar has lost in Somnath seat of Saurashtra by only 922 votes, 1,530 votes have been cast in NOTA. While in North Gujarat, senior BJP leader Dilip Thakore has also faced defeat due to NOTA. Dilip Thakor has lost the Chansma seat by 1,404 votes while 3,811 votes have been cast in NOTA here.

The highest number of NOTA votes was cast in Ahmedabad district while the lowest was cast in Dang district. A total of 3.13 crore voters voted in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections, out of which 1.67 crore voted for the BJP, which is an average of 52.50 per cent.



DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
Our correspondent in Gujarat
dilipsingh@newindianexpress.com

5 AAP MLAs in talks with state BJP

Five out of five AAP MLAs in Gujarat are reportedly in touch with the BJP which is set to form its government in the state for the seventh consecutive term. The first name that came out openly is AAP MLA Bhupat Bhayani, who won the assembly election from Visavadar constituency in Junagadh district; however, he refuted the claims. Bhayani said, "Right now I am in AAP, I will decide what to do after meeting my people in constituency." But he praised PM Modi, saying that the PMhas made India's name shine in the country and abroad. Interestingly, Bhayani had been associated with the BJP for more than 20 years.

Fresh faces to be part of CM's cabinet

On Sunday morning, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel held meetings with ministers of the previous term, According to sources, some ministers who are going to be dropped in the new CM's council have been indirectly hinted at today's meeting. A leader close to Party development said "at CM's residence, Bhupendra Patel applauded the one-and-a-half-year performance of all the ministers." Sources claim that Bhupendra Patel's cabinet names were finalized in a meeting chaired by PM Modi in Delhi on Saturday. Around 22 to 25 ministers can get a place in Patel's cabinet. Selected ministers will called and informed.

Only one Muslim MLA in Assembly

Imran Khedawala of Congress is the only Muslim candidate elected to the 182-member Gujarat Assembly 2022. In 2017, Gujarat assembly had only three Muslim legislators, all from Congress. In these five years, among Muslim leaders Jamalpur Khadia, MLA Imran Khedawala and Dariyapur MLA Gayasuddin Shaikh are known for their friendship. In 2022, only Imran won while Gayasuddin lost to BJP's Kaushik Jain, Shortly after the results, Sheikh visited Khedawala to congratulate him but both turned emotional and Sheikh was seen bolstering Imran to remain strong," video of the event went viral.

Cong turns to lower Himachal to breach saffron party citadel

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a tactical move, Congress has picked the top two positions in the Himachal Pradesh cabinet from lower parts of the state. Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** and his deputy Mukesh Agnihotri come from known BJP strongholds in the lower parts of the state.

The party's preference for Sukhu is also seen as an attempt to place a commoner in the top post. Sukhu belongs to Nadaun in Hamirpur district and is the first party leader from lower Himachal comprising areas merged with the state in 1966 such as Nalagarh, Una, Hamirpur, Kangra, and lower hills of Kullu.

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri too is from lower Himachal's Una district. All former Congress CMs, including YS Parmar, Virbhadra Singh and Ram Lal Thakur, were from upper Himachal.

Harish Thakur, professor of Political Science at Himachal Pradesh University, says Sukhu's elevation is a good move as it signifies the party's renewed attempt to strike at the BJP's base from lower Himachal, especially Hamirpur and Kangra districts, the saffron strongholds. The same tactic is visible in the appointment of Agnihotri, Thakur said.

The reason for the BJP's strength in the state is due to the fact that two BJP CMs have belonged to lower Himachal. Shanta Kumar, a Brahmin from Kangra, remained CM twice in 1977 and 1990, and PK Dhumal comes from Hamirpur district and was CM in 2007-12.

A substantial period of Congress rule in the tiny Himalayan state was dominated by late Virbhadra Singh, who remained CM six times. Sukhu's elevation thus marks a generational shift in the party's state unit.

Meanwhile, the state cabinet can have a maximum of 12 ministers, including the chief minister. Party observer and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the formation of a Congress government has infused new energy in the party. "When winds of change blow from the hills they go down to the plains," he said.

ASSETS CASE

ED asks Soren govt to book suspended babu

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked Jharkhand government to register FIR against suspended IAS officer Pooja Singhal on charges of amassing disproportionate assets. According to sources, the ED in a report submitted to the State government regarding the attachment of his property worth ₹82.77 crore in the MGNREGA scam, has asked the state government to demand Pooja Singhal to reveal the sources of her wealth, further suggesting to register FIR against her under the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by Jharkhand Police and Vigilance Bureau Jharkhand.

The Enforcement Directorate, after an interrogation for over 15 hours, had arrested Pooja Singhal on May 11 in alleged embezzlement of MGNREGA funds and other charges. The 2000-batch IAS officer was taken into ED custody under the relevant sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED had also attached immovable properties worth ₹82.77 crore belonging to the former Jharkhand Mining Secretary Pooja Singhal on money laundering charges.

C'garh guv withholds approval to quota bill unless she is convinced

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IN an apparent dissent emerging between the Rajbhawan and the Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh, the Governor Anusuiya Uike seeking reasons behind raising the quota for all categories has withhold her assent to the reservation amendment bill, which was passed in the special session of the Assembly on December 2.

The governor has categorically asserted that had the amendment in the bill been carried out just for increasing the tribal quota, she would have not hesitated to approve it immediately.

Unless convinced with the justifications for passing the amendment bill that raised the reservation quota to a whopping 76% in the state, the Governor said that she is not willing to give the assent to it now.

"When the reservation was 58%, the high court struck it down terming it as unconstitutional. Now on what basis the state government has decided to raise the reservation (to 76 %). After knowing the credible details along with the preparedness of the government to defend the bill if there arises any issue before the court, I will think of giving the assent", the governor said.

Following the statewide agitation by the tribal communities, the governor had in November written to the chief minister Bhupesh Baghel to convene a special session of the Assembly to pass the amendment bill for tribal reservation or seek the resolution of the problem through an ordinance.

"But the government instead has increased the quota of all categories raising it to 76 percent, with a lot of change," the governor said. The amendment bill raised the ST quota to 32 %, SC to 13 % and OBCs to 27 % besides 4 % for Economically Weaker Sections in educational institutions and government jobs.

However, the ruling Congress alleged that the BJP is doing politics on reservation using the Rajbhawan.

"The state government had taken every technical and legal grounds into consideration ahead of unanimously adopting the bill in the House. So, the Governor should give her assent to it without further delay. Rajbhawan should not be turned into a political battlefield. If there is any query, the state government will respond or the Rajbhawan can send it back if the Governor finds any issue preventing her to sign the bill, instead of keeping it for long", said Sushil Anand Shukla, chairman Congress media cell. The Governor acts as the constitutional head in the state and will accordingly take appropriate decisions, the BJP countered.

In 2012, the BJP regime led by Raman Singh government raised the reservation quota up to 58 percent. Then the reservation of the SC was reduced from 16 % to 12 %, it was increased for ST to 32 % while keeping the quota for OBCs at 14 %. The decision was later challenged in the high court that quashed it on September 19.

When the reservation was 58%, the high court struck it down terming it unconstitutional. Now on what basis has the state government decided to raise the reservation (to 76 %)? After knowing the credible details along with the preparedness of the government to defend the bill if there arises any issue before the court, I will think of giving the assent —Anusuiya Uike, Chhattisgarh governor

UTTARAKHAND

Security beefed up at Corbett to check poaching

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN view of the New Year's Eve and Christmas, the state forest department has made elaborate arrangements to ensure that poachers do not enter Corbett's wildlife area.

"Daily patrolling will be carried out at sensitive locations, including the highly-sensitive southern border range of Corbett Tiger Reserve Park," said Jim Corbett Park director Dr Dheeraj Pandey. Intensive searches and checking operations will be conducted at places like bus stands and railway stations. Dog squads, metal detectors, drones, elephants will be used in the campaign.

Security arrangements have been tightened to prevent poachers from entering Rajaji Tiger Reserve by taking advantage of the New Year's eve and hunting wildlife like deer, muntjak (barking deer) and wild boar," said Corbett Tiger Reserve director Dr Saket Badola.

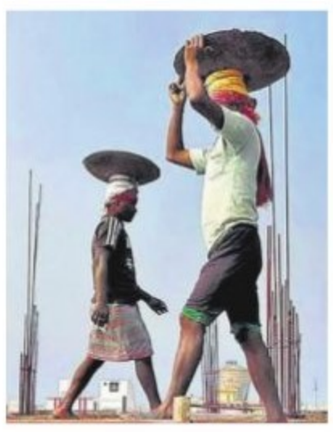
Bengal sets up task force to supervise over 11 lakh beneficiaries of PMAY

PRANAB MANDAL @ Kolkata

AMID complaints that officials and workers checking the bonafides of the applicants under a central scheme are facing resistance from a section of villagers across the state, the state government has set up a task force to supervise the verification of the eligibility of 11 lakh beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The task force will be headed by the secretary of the panchayat department.

For the first time, the state government has initiated the physical verification of eligible beneficiaries as the Centre is keeping a close watch on the disbursal of funds. After stopping the fund under PMAY since December 2021 citing irregularities, the Centre recently approved a fund of ₹13,000 crore for building up 11.34 lakh homes for the poor within 2026.

Sources in the government said the resistance was coming because many ineligible applicants, who are either relatives



of the ruling Trinamool Congress satraps or from their close circuits, fear of being axed after the spot verification.

An official of the fisheries department was allegedly manhandled recently when she went to verify the credentials of the PMAY's prospective beneficiaries at Amta in Howrah district. The accused was arrested and remanded to judicial custody for 14 days by a court.

"The incident came as an embarrassment for the state government, which may further give the Centre a chance to stop releasing the fund citing malpractices.

The prosecution will send a message that the government is in no mood to allow such activity. All district administrations have already been instructed to verify the list of applicants properly," said an official of the panchayat department.

The Bengal government started the spot verification survey on December 4 and several complaints have already reached that officials are being harassed when they go to check the eligibility of beneficiaries. "Since, almost all the panchayats are being dominated by the ruling Trinamool Congress, the functionaries of the ruling party in villages are intercepting to secure names of their own men in the list of beneficiaries. But we have clear instructions not to allow a single ineligible applicant as it can invite the Centre's bar on the housing project once again," said another official.

CAA 3RD ANNIV

N-E student outfit marks black day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE North East Students' Organisation observed 'black day' on Sunday to mark the third anniversary of the passage of contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

NESO chairman Samuel B Jyrwa said December 11 would always be remembered as a 'Black Day' in the Northeast. "This observation is to give a message to the Centre that we are against the CAA and also to remind our people and our future generations of the political injustice that the government had done to the indigenous peoples of the Northeast," Jyrwa said.

Political party Assam Jatiya Parishad observed the day as the "Day of Deception". The party, which was formed in the backdrop of the anti-CAA protests in Assam, also staged a two-hour sit-in Guwahati. The anti-CAA protests in 2020 claimed the lives of five persons.

3 booked for attempt to murder for throwing ink at BJP's Maha minister

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Pune

PIMPRI Chinchwad police have invoked charges of attempt to murder against the three people for throwing ink at senior BJP minister **Chandrakant Patil** on Saturday. The police had arrested the accused Manoj Gharbade, Dhananjay Ejgaj and Vijay Hohal and were granted three days police custody by the court. A TV journalist has also been arrested.

BJP minister Chandrakant Patil had stirred the controversy saying that the social reformer Mahatma Phule, DR BR Ambedkar, Karmavir Bhaurao Patil and others had begged and ran the schools, but never took the grant from the government.

Oppositions and various social activists had condemned the statement of Mr Patil and demanded an apology. Patil later extended an apology and said his statement was twisted and he had no intentions to hurt the social reformers and their followers.

Advocate Sachin Bhosale for the accused, "They threw ink in protest against the controversial remarks by the BJP minister against social reformers. We can understand charges like interfering with the government work, but the police have put serious charges that have nothing to do with the act. We will go to the High Court," said Bhosale.

Meanwhile, 11 police officers, who were part of Chandrakant Patil's security when a face -blackening incident took place, were suspended. Patil had even demanded action against the journalist who took his blackened photograph. Patil even threatened that if the journalists are not arrested, then he will protest in police stations. Journalist Associations condemned the threatening language by the minister.

SIX
civilians killed, 17 injured after Afghan Taliban forces opened fire at Pak's Balochistan on Sunday, the Pakistani military said

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	5	-6	TDS	Los Angeles	13	5	LC
Colombo	29	23	LC	Melbourne	17	11	HR
Dhaka	28	19	TDS	Moscow	3	-1	HR
Dubai	27	18	SNY	New York	6	-3	LC
Houston	23	19	SNY	Singapore	28	24	TDS
Istanbul	16	11	LC	Toronto	1	-6	LC
London	3	-2	LC	Washington	8	-2	LC

Ukraine attacks Russian-occupied Melitopol with US' rocket launchers

Kremlin official claims the strike killed two, injured 10 and destroyed a 'recreation centre'

KYIV

UKRAINE attacked the Russian-occupied southern city of Melitopol on Saturday evening, the Kremlin-installed local authorities and Ukrainian officials said.

The strategically located city, which had a pre-war population of just over 150,000 people, is located in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia that Moscow claims to have annexed. Russian-installed officials and Ukrainian authorities issued conflicting reports about the target of the strikes and the casualties.

Yevgeny Balitsky, the Russia-installed head of Zaporizhzhia region, said that using US-supplied HIMARS long-range rocket launchers, Ukrainian troops struck Melitopol at around 9.00 p.m. on Saturday.

He claimed that the attack had destroyed a 'recreation centre' on the outskirts of Melitopol, killed two people and injured another 10. The place was hit when people were eating dinner, he added. Balitsky said two rockets had been shot down, while another four reached their target.

A man passes by an unexploded shell in Bakhmut, the site of the heaviest battles with the Russian troops, in the Donetsk region, Ukraine on Sunday | AP

Another Moscow-installed regional official, Vladimir Rogov, released a picture of a major fire ravaging the 'recreation centre.'

Ivan Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitopol, said for his part that Ukrainian forces hit Russian troops in Melitopol and that dozens of 'invaders' had been killed.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine's armed forces. HIMARS have been playing a key role in counteroffensives against Moscow's troops in the east and south of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, two people were killed and another five wounded after Russian troops shelled the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson, the governor said on Sunday.

"The enemy again attacked the residential quarters of Kherson," the governor, Yaroslav Yanushevich, said on Telegram, adding the Russian forces hit a maternity ward, a cafe and apartment buildings on Saturday.

"Last night, two people were killed due to Russian shelling," Yanushevich said, adding that five others had been wounded. He said the region was attacked with artillery, multiple launch rocket systems, tanks and mortars.

In Odesa, emergency shutdowns were continuing following Russian drone attacks, Sergiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the regional administration, said on Sunday. *AFP*

A POWERFUL SPEAKING PARTNERSHIP

Hughes died on December 1 in Tampa, Florida, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Columbus, Georgia. Her daughter, Delethia Ridley Malmsten, said the cause was old age

Though they came to feminism from different places—Hughes from community activism and Steinem from journalism—the two forged a powerful speaking partnership in the early 1970s

They toured the country at a time when feminism was seen as predominantly white and middle class, a divide dating back to the origins of the American women's movement. Steinem credited Hughes with helping her become comfortable speaking in public

In one of the most famous images of the era, taken in October 1971, the two raised their right arms in the Black Power salute. The photo is now in the National Portrait Gallery

Pioneering Black feminist Dorothy Pitman Hughes dies at 84

Dorothy Pitman Hughes, a pioneering Black feminist, child welfare advocate and lifelong community activist who toured the country speaking with Gloria Steinem in the 1970s, has died. She was 84

File photo of Dorothy Pitman Hughes posing with a poster using a 1970's image of herself and Gloria Steinem | AP

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

Hughes, her work always rooted in community activism, organised the first shelter for battered women in New York City and co-founded the New York City Agency for Child Development to broaden childcare services in the city

But she was perhaps best known for her work helping countless families through the community center she established on Manhattan's West Side, offering day care, job training, and more

EARLY LIFE

She was born on October 2, 1938 in Lumpkin, Georgia. When she was 10, her father was nearly beaten to death and left on family's doorstep. The family believed he was attacked by Ku Klux Klan. She decided to dedicate herself to helping others through activism

She moved to New York City in the late 1950s when she was nearly 20 and worked as a salesperson, nightclub singer and house cleaner

By the 1960s, she was involved in the civil rights movement and other causes, working with Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and others. In late 1960s, she set up her West 80th St. community centre, providing care for children and support for their parents

MASK UP

Facing Covid surge, China expanding hospitals and ICUs

BEIJING

FACING a surge in Covid-19 cases, China is setting up more intensive care facilities and trying to strengthen hospitals as Beijing rolls back anti-virus controls that confined millions of people to their homes, crushed economic growth and set off protests.

It isn't clear how much infection numbers have increased since Beijing last week ended mandatory testing as often as once a day in many areas. But interviews and social media accounts say there are outbreaks in businesses and schools across the country. Some restaurants and other businesses have closed because too many employees are sick.

The virus testing site in Beijing's Runfeng Shuishang neighbourhood shut down because all its employees were infected, the neighbourhood government said Saturday on its social media account. "Please be patient," it said.

On Sunday, the government reported 10,815 new cases, including 8,477 without symptoms. That was barely one-quarter of the previous week's daily peak above 40,000 but only represents people who are tested after being admitted to hospitals or for jobs in schools and other higher-risk sites.

Shaanxi province in the west has set aside 22,000 hospital beds for Covid-19 and is ready to increase its intensive care capacity 20% by converting other beds, *The Paper* reported. A health official said cities are 'accelerating the upgrading' of hospitals for 'critically ill patients.'

China has 138,000 intensive care beds, the general director of Bureau of Medical Administration of the National Health Commission, Jiao Yahui, said at a news conference on Friday. That is less than one for every 10,000 people.

Health resources are distributed unevenly. Hospital beds are concentrated in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities on the prosperous east coast. Thursday's Cabinet statement told officials to make sure rural areas have 'fair access' to treatment and drugs. *AP*

Omicron strain highly transmissible: Expert

Top epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan said Omicron strain prevalent in China was highly transmissible and could lead to a surge in cases. "The (current) Omicron mutation... is very contagious... one person can transmit to 22 people," said Zhong Nanshan

Residents line up to enter the fever clinic of a hospital in Beijing on Sunday. Facing a surge in Covid-19 cases, China is setting up more intensive care facilities | AP

EXPRESS READ

Lockerbie bombing accused now in US custody

Washington: A Libyan intelligence official accused of making the bomb that brought down Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 in an international act of terrorism has been taken into US custody and will face federal charges in Washington, the Justice Department said on Sunday. The arrest of Abu Agela Masud Kheir Al-Marimi is a milestone in the decades-old investigation into the attack that killed 259 people in the air and 11 on the ground. Citizens from 21 different countries were killed. Among the 190 Americans on board were 35 Syracuse University students. US authorities in December 2020 announced charges against Masud, who was in Libyan custody at the time. The Justice Department said Masud would appear soon in a federal court in Washington, where he faces two criminal counts related to the explosion.

Tensions run high after attacks on police in Kosovo

MITROVICA

TENSIONS were high in northern Kosovo on Sunday after unknown attackers exchanged gunfire with the police and threw a stun grenade at EU law enforcers during the night.

Hundreds of Serbs, outraged over the arrest of a former police officer, gathered again early in the morning at the roadblocks which paralysed traffic through two border crossings from Kosovo towards Serbia.

Although Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, Belgrade does not recognise it and encourages the Serb-majority in northern Kosovo to defy Pristina's authority.

Hours after the barricades went up, police said they suffered three successive firearm attacks on one of the roads leading to the border. "The police units, in self-defence, were forced to respond with firearms to the criminal persons and groups, who were repelled and left in an unknown direction," police said.

EU police deployed in the region as part of the rule of law mission (EULEX) said they were also targeted with a stun grenade, but no officers were injured. "This attack, as well as the attacks on Kosovo Police officers, are unacceptable," EULEX said.

Local Serbs block the road near the village of Rudare, north of Serb-dominated part of ethnically divided town of Mitrovica, Kosovo on Sunday | AP

EU chief diplomat Josep Borrell condemned the attacks and called on Kosovo Serbs to 'immediately' remove the barricades. "Calm must be restored... all actors must avoid escalation," Borrell tweeted.

Tensions mounted after Kosovo scheduled local elections in the Serb-majority municipalities for December 18, with the main Serb political party saying it would stage a boycott.

Shortly after the roadblocks appeared, Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani decided to postpone the elections for April 23.

The embassies of France, Germany, Italy, the UK, the US and the EU—welcomed the postponement. *AFP*

US President Joe Biden | AP

Biden aims to narrow trust gap at summit with Africa

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden is set to play host to dozens of African leaders in Washington this week as the White House looks to narrow a gaping trust gap with Africa.

In the lead-up to the three-day US-Africa Leaders Summit that begins on Tuesday, Biden administration officials played down their increasing concern about the clout of China and Russia in Africa. Instead, administration officials tried to put the focus on their efforts to improve cooperation with African leaders.

"This summit is an opportunity to deepen the many partnerships we have on the African continent," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. "We will focus on our efforts to strengthen these partnerships across a wide range of sectors spanning from businesses to health to peace and security, but our focus will be on Africa next week."

Talks are expected to center on the coronavirus, climate change, the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Africa, trade and more, according to White House officials.

"The United States prioritises our relationship with Africa for the sake of our mutual interests and our partnership in dealing with global challenges," Molly Phee, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said.

The president is expected to participate with leaders in a session on promoting food security and food systems resilience. Africa has been disproportionately impacted by the global rise in food prices that has been caused in part by the drop in shipments from major grain exporter Ukraine.

Four countries that were suspended from the African Union—Guinea, Sudan, Mali and Burkina Faso—were not invited because coups in those nations led to unconstitutional changes in power. *AP*

This summit is an opportunity to deepen the many partnerships we have on the African continent

Karine Jean-Pierre, White House press secretary

Iran's rial falls to record low against dollar amid protest

TEHRAN

IRAN'S currency fell to a record low against the dollar on Sunday, with nationwide anti-government protests now in their third month. A breakdown in negotiations to restore Tehran's nuclear deal has also hurt the value of the rial.

Traders in Tehran were exchanging the rial at around 370,000 to the dollar on Sunday, up from 368,000 on Thursday. Iran's currency was trading at 32,000 rials to the dollar at the time of the 2015 nuclear accord that dropped international sanctions in exchange for tight controls on Iran's nuclear programme.

Protesters have focused much of their anger on the country's heavy-handed policing and the deep-rooted power of its Islamic clergy. But the poor state of Iran's economy is also another factor driving the protests, with soaring prices, high unemployment and corruption a common complaint among protesters.

Iran's government for months has been trying to argue that foreign nations are driving the unrest but has offered no evidence to support this claim.

Efforts to revive Iran's nuclear deal stalled months ago. The United States and European Union have since imposed further sanctions on Tehran for its crackdown on the demonstrators and its decision to supply Russia with hundreds of drones for its war against Ukraine.

Last week, Iran began construction on a new power plant. Last month, Iranian authorities said they had begun producing enriched uranium at 60% purity, one short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

THAILAND

PM to attend EU-ASEAN Summit in Belgium

Thailand's prime minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha will participate in the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in Belgium. Gen Prayut is expected to discuss economic and political issues while promoting sustainable development through the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic model. According to Anucha Burapachaisri, government spokesperson, the summit will take place in Belgium from December 12 to 15 and will mark the 45th anniversary of the dialogue partnership between the EU and ASEAN countries. Thailand PM will attend the commemmorative summit on December 14 and will witness the signing of the Thai-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (Thailand-EU PCA)

INDONESIA

Governor asks winners of EJTA to promote tourism

Indonesia's East Java governor Khofifah Indar Parawansa in a written statement on Sunday has asked the winners of the 2022 East Java Tourism Award (EJTA) to continue the promotion of tourism in the region. However, she also noted the challenges in promoting local tourism which included the need for sufficient infrastructure to access the scenic places

SINGAPORE

Water agency issues flood alert amid rains

Singapore's water agency PUB on Sunday issued flood warnings, as heavy downpours hit several regions of the island. The PUB on its Facebook page said that heavy rains were "expected over many areas of Singapore from 8.40 a.m. to 9.40 a.m." Later, the agency updated its page with flash flood risk alerts in areas like Neo Pee Teck Lane in Buona Vista, Pasir Panjang Road, Tanjong Pagar Road, Aljunied Road and Upper Paya Lebar Road. The citizens were also advised to avoid these regions for an hour following the alert as water in the drains had already reached to 90%. An hour later, flash flood occured at Kallang-Paya Lebar Expressway. The rains caused a large tree to collapse at Tampines Street

PTI threatens to dissolve assemblies if govt doesn't declare general election dates

ISLAMABAD

IMRAN Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party on Sunday warned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government that it will dissolve the assemblies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces if a date for next general election is not announced by December 20.

"Leaders of the imported government don't want polls and they have no idea how to run the country," PTI's senior vice president Fawad Chaudhry said.

He criticised the members of the ruling coalition led by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), saying the country's affairs are not run by appointing ministers and making foreign visits.

"If the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) doesn't bring a formula for holding general elections by December 20, the Punjab and KP assemblies will be dissolved," Chaudhry said.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement or PDM is a coalition of political parties currently ruling the country.

Chaudhry said that Pakistan needs political stability which is not possible without a stable government.

He said that the process of general elections in the two provinces will be completed by March 20 and PTI has complete trust of its allies on the issue.

Earlier, Chaudhry had said that Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi suggested extending the date for dissolution of the provincial assemblies.

On December 5, Elahi had said he did not see elections taking place in next four months.

The PML-N-led federal government has threatened to impose Governor's rule in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces and is opposed to holding elections right now.

The term of the current National Assembly will end in August 2023. *PTI*

IPO season: Three firms set to raise ₹1,858 crore

At a time when equity markets are trading at high valuations, Sula Vineyards, Landmark Cars and Abans Holdings will launch their public issue this week

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AFTER a blockbuster November for the equity as well as the IPO market, three more firms will be conducting their initial share sale this week to become a publicly listed company.

Wine producer Sula Vineyards, automobile dealership chain Landmark Cars and Abans Holdings, the financial services arm of Abans Group, will be launching their initial public offerings (IPOs) this week to collectively raise about ₹1,858 crore.

While Sula and Abans will open for public subscription on December 12, Landmark's initial sale of shares for public will begin on December 13.

These IPOs come at a time when the equity market is trading at a high with the bulls not willing to lose their grip. However, it also comes at a time when the RBI has increased repo rates, making borrowings more expensive than before.

Ankit Yadav, Founder and Director of Market Maestroo, said all the three IPOs are coming at a time of interest rate hikes. Generally, there is an opportunity for making wealth from IPOs in low-rate scenarios where borrowing is easy. "Today at high rates, the businesses that are bringing IPOs need to be top notch in fundamental terms," he added.

In 2022 so far, about 33 companies have come out with their IPOs to mop up over ₹55,000 crore. In 2021, the numbers were much higher as 63 IPOs had raised more than ₹1.19 lakh crore.

How much are they raising?

Sula Vineyards Limited, the country's largest wine producer, has fixed the price band at ₹340 to ₹357 per Equity Share for its maiden public offer. At the upper end of the price band, the public issue is expected to fetch ₹960.35 crore. Sula on Friday informed that it has garnered ₹288.10 crore from anchor investors, ahead of the IPO, which will open on Monday, December 12, 2022, for subscription and close on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

In Sula, investors can bid for a minimum of 42 Equity Shares and in multiples of 42 Equity Shares thereafter. The public issue with a face value of ₹2 per equity share is a complete offer for sale (OFS) aggregating to 26,900,530 equity shares by existing shareholders.

The IPO of Landmark Cars, which had dealerships for brands such Mercedes-Benz, Honda, Jeep, Volkswagen and Renault, is going to open on 13 December 2022, and it will remain open for bidders till 15 December 2022.

Landmark has fixed the price band of its public offer at ₹481 to ₹506 apiece as it aims to mop up ₹552 crore from this exercise. Proceeds from fresh issuance will be utilised for payment of debt and general corporate purposes, the company said in its draft paper.

The IPO of Abans Holdings comprises fresh issuance of equity shares of up to 38 lakh and an offer-for-sale of up to 90 lakh equity shares by promoter Abhishek Bansal. The company has set a price band of ₹256 to ₹270 a share for its IPO and is expecting to raise ₹345.6 crore at the higher end of the price band. Abans Holding operates as a diversified global financial services business, providing Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) services, global institutional trading in equities, commodities and foreign exchange, private client stockbroking, depository services and asset management services, among others, to corporates, institutional and high net worth individual clients. It currently has active businesses across six countries --the UK, Singapore, UAE, China, Mauritius and India.

What is the GMP Signalling?

All the three IPOs were commanding a premium in the grey market till Sunday, indicating a positive listing on the bourses. However, the premiums were not as high as they would have liked. Shares of Landmark Cars were available at a premium of ₹50 (10% over the IPO price) in the grey market while that of Sula were commanding a premium of ₹40, or 11% over the IPO price. GMP (Grey Market Premium) of Abans holding at ₹15 was just 6% above its IPO price. If India's equity market sees heavy selling in the coming sessions, it won't be a surprise to see the premiums turning into discounts.

All the three firms reported profit in FY2022

Abans recorded a 35% growth in profit at ₹61.97 crore for FY22 but its revenue fell by 52% to ₹ 638.63 crore in the same period. Landmark reported a profit of ₹66.18 crore with a total revenue of ₹2,989.12 crore in FY22 while Sula's profit jumped to ₹52.1 crore in FY22 compared to ₹3 crore in FY21.

GOING PUBLIC

SULA	ABANS	LANDMARK
IPO Date: **Dec 12-14**	IPO Date: **Dec 12-14**	IPO Date: **Dec 13-15**
Price Band: **₹340** to **₹357** per share	Price Band: **₹256** to **₹270** per share	Price Band: **₹481** to **₹506** per share
Lot Size: **42 shares**	Lot Size: **55 shares**	Lot Size: **29 shares**

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOUR MONEY IN 2023

FINANCIAL ADVICE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

IN financial writing, 'year enders' mean you turn to forecast. While everyone reviews the year gone by, financial markets look forward to what lies ahead. The year 2023 could be more or less the same as 2022 for your money. There are a lot of headwinds and tailwinds that are likely to collide.

Forces for your money

First, here is the good news. You can easily protect your wealth in 2023. Interest rates will remain firm throughout the year. The outlook for inflation influences them in the economy. In the first two quarters of the financial year 2023-24, the expectation of consumer price inflation is over 5%. It is higher than the desired level of the Reserve Bank of India at 4% and lower than the tolerance level of 6%.

That implies no dramatic cut in interest rates in 2023 despite a downward trend in the inflation rate. For those looking to protect their wealth in 2023, your money in fixed deposits, post-office schemes and government bonds will give you a return for wealth protection.

Share prices are likely to remain in a range in 2023 as the pressure on the inflation in the economy eases and is unlikely to bite into corporate profits. There are assumptions of a normal monsoon and steady oil prices around the $100 per barrel mark in the growth and inflation expectations.

Corporate profits are likely to show steady growth led by domestic consumption. In their 2023 predictions, analysts suggest a boom for Indian equities over the next few years. American investment bank Morgan Stanley's India expert Ridham Desai says it could be India's decade as it becomes the third-largest economy in the world by 2031.

Forces against your money

Headwinds to your money are led by the term 'uncertainty'. Financial markets hate that situation. International commodity prices remain under pressure due to a prolonged war in Europe. The disruption in China means that supply chains are getting a rejig, which should hurt the delivery of goods worldwide.

It is a dramatic disruption that is likely to continue for a long time before the 'China + 1' strategy gets a meaningful form. India is expected to benefit from the manufacturing jobs that could move, but that is a few years away.

Also, the Budget of February 2023 will be the last budget before the general election. The government is doing very well in generating substantial tax revenue to meet Budget 2022 estimates and do better than expected. However, 2023 will witness the government launching welfare schemes to woo voters. All of that means inflation is not going away anywhere in 2023. In the equity markets, share prices are already at their peak. With the rest of the world not doing so well, India is unlikely to see a runaway rally in 2023 despite a flat performance in 2022.

What you should do

This column does not advise on investing. You have to engage a professional financial advisor for this purpose. You need to make an appropriate asset allocation with professional help. This column can help you connect the dots and engage in a meaningful conversation with your advisor.

Multiple factors could influence your money in 2023. You need to tread carefully and not put all your eggs in one basket. Do note that the flight of fancy in 2022 crashed for too many people. Consumer technology companies that were supposed to become darlings of the stock market after their listing lost more than half of their value.

Bitcoins and cryptocurrencies have done much worse. You must understand that investing is not an 'all-or-none' game. You have to spread your surplus money each month across asset classes.

If you are new to investment, exchange-traded or index funds are an excellent way to start. If you are experienced, you need to balance your portfolio to minimise risk. 'Getting rich slow' is not a bad mantra if you think Warren Buffett, the legendary American investor is an achiever. Your returns in 2023 depend on your ability to understand and make the connections.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

BALANCE YOUR PORTFOLIO TO MINIMISE RISK

Multiple factors could influence your money in 2023. You need to tread carefully and not put all your eggs in one basket. Do note that the flight of fancy in 2022 crashed for too many people. Consumer technology companies that were supposed to become darlings of the stock market after their listing lost more than half of their value. If you are new to investment, exchange-traded or index funds are an excellent way to start.

MONEY-WISE

ELSS–THE PURE EQUITY OPTION FOR TAX SAVING

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

WITH the calendar year end Advance Tax payment date closing in, many taxpayers tend to wake up to the need of completing their tax saving investments.

While there are multiple options on offer, the sole pure equity option on offer in this category is the Equity Linked Saving Scheme (ELSS) offered by mutual fund houses.

The Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) product offered by insurance companies is another popular option, where the lock in is restricted to 5 years though ideally one should hold it for longer tenure to optimize returns.

In case of ULIPs, the investor also has the advantage of two-way fungibility between Equity and Debt. For almost all the remaining Tax Saving instruments, including the Tax Saving Bank Deposits, the underlying investment vehicle is debt and the minimum lock-in period is at least 5 years, with some having even longer holding tenures.

Of such investment options, the Public Provident Fund (PPF), remains the most popular tax saving debt-based investment for those averse to equity. The lock-in period is five times longer, though in this case, the returns unlike ELSS are still tax-free.

When one looks at the relative 3-year performance of the ELSS as compared to its alternative tax saving instruments, on more occasions than not it has been superior. The reason for focusing on 3 year returns here is simply because the lock-in period for ELSS is 3 years, which makes it the shortest tenure tax saving instrument.

Besides its plus points of being the only tax saving instrument where the underlying asset class is equity and its being locked in for just 3 years, there is another unique feature that the ELSS offers investors.

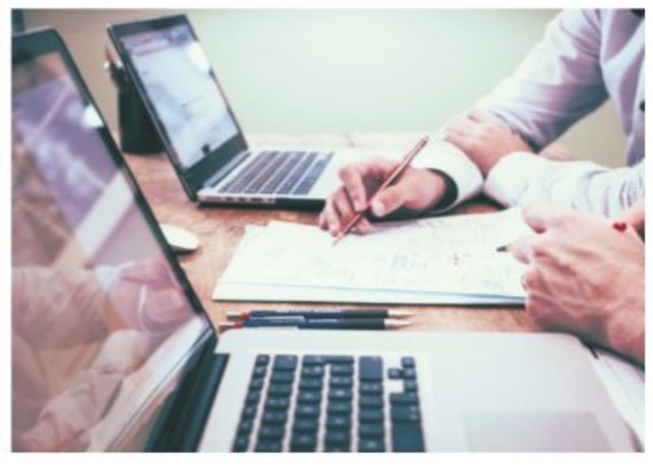
Once the funds complete 3 years of investment, the same can be redeemed and reinvested without having to bother about a fresh infusion of funds to save taxes under Section 80C. Hence, the outflows can be restricted to three years and thereafter, the funds can be rolled over if needed, thus not impacting a tax payers' liquidity.

This of course must be accompanied by the caveat that there is an underlying assumption of being at least a status quo in the sum invested if not appreciation. But, like I mentioned before, historical evidence suggests that it is the case, more often than not.

A suggestion I always make while discussing ELSS with anyone is that investors in ELSS would do well to consider completing it during the early part of the year so that their compounding tenure increases.

Alternatively, one could plan it as an SIP and let it run on auto-pilot for at least three years. Hence, assuming one is claiming their entire Section 80C base entitlement of ₹1.5 lakh via ELSS, then an ongoing monthly SIP of ₹12,500 could be worth considering.

Finally, one must choose their tax saving investment based on their risk appetite. For younger investors with a relatively higher risk appetite, ELSS could be the route to take.



US inflation, major central bank rate decisions to weigh on Indian equities

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

THE week gone by saw Indian equity markets ignoring two big events – RBI's Monetary Policy announcements and State elections results – and remained range-bound without reacting much to either.

Benchmark equity indices – Sensex and Nifty – moved within a 1.3% range and closed 0.5% lower than the previous week.

The general belief that the market has moved in the premium valuation range, might have prevented investors from taking bullish bets despite the fact that the BJP, which is in power at the Centre, won an emphatic victory in the PM Narendra Modi's home state Gujarat. The markets also ignored the fact that the RBI has delivered on the much-anticipated moderation of repo rate hike. Though buying was seen in FMCG, Pharma and Banking sector stocks, IT sector stocks saw sharp fall after HCL Tech said that it expects FY23 revenue growth to be at the lower end of its 13.5%-14.5% guidance. But can the markets remain oblivion to other major global events in the current week? The two major events slated this week are US inflation numbers followed by US Federal Bank's interest rate decisions. A lower-than-expected retail inflation number in the US and the policy response to the inflation numbers may decide the future policy stance of the global central banks including that of India.

Analysts see the market to remain volatile with a downward bias. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial services, says that the volatility in the market is expected to remain as we await the domestic and US inflation numbers, and the Fed's interest rate decision next week. The US Fed is projected to raise interest rates by half a percentage in its final meeting of the year, which will take place on 13–14 December 2022. "We expect the consolidative mode to continue till central banks like the US Fed, ECB, BoE announce their policy moves next week," says Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Global slowdown fears to keep investors cautious

A lower-than-expected US retail inflation may strengthen the conviction among investors that the risk of inflation in finally dissipating, encouraging them to increase investments in Indian equities.

'Don't go by Western concept of arm's length'

NEW DELHI, PTI: BharatPe's former MD Ashneer Grover, who was recently slapped with a civil suit and criminal charges for cheating and siphoning off funds from the company he co-founded, has advised start-up founders not to go by Western concept of arm's length and related party transactions.

In his new book 'Doglapan', Grover says there is nothing wrong in giving spouses a board position as they invest in founders' success and will be a victim of their failure, like no one else. "Just because your business has capital coming in from the US, you do not have to go by their concept of management - of not involving family in business," he writes.

"To my mind, the concept of a related party transaction in India is totally irrelevant." His wife, Madhuri Jain Grover, was head of controls at BharatPe, and is one of the accused in the civil and criminal cases. Charges include creating fake bills, enlisting fictitious vendors to provide services to the firm, overcharging the firm for recruitment and using the company's funds for personal use.

Jain was fired for alleged misconduct and Grover resigned from the company and its board in March. "If I work with family, I will still give them the same rate as the market and will get the same deliverables. The added advantage that I may get is that a family member may work with me on a lower MOQ (minimum order quantity) or that they may take a credit risk on me. "Being the capitalist economy that India is, everything in any case happens at arm's length here - after all, dhanda, dhanda hai aur rishtedari, rishtedari; business and relations can be handled separately with the same individual," he wrote in the book saying there is need to be absolutely unapologetic about working with family.

EXPRESS READ

'Disinformation undermines right to free speech'

NEW DELHI: Disinformation has the effect to undermine the fundamental right to free speech and is a threat to democracy, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said. The reaction from the minister comes after the revelation of 'Twitter Files'.

Vee Technologies to hire 3K fresh graduates in south India in 1 yr

Bengaluru: Bengaluru-New York headquartered IT services firm, Vee Technologies has announced its plan to add over 3,000 fresh graduates to its work force in south India in the next 12 months, to cater to the growing business from its healthcare customers in the US.

NDTV to give 2 board seats to Adani group firm

NEW DELHI: NDTV has offered billionaire Gautam Adani's group two seats on its board of directors for the pre-open offer 29.18% shareholding the ports-to-energy conglomerate had acquired in the broadcaster. The appointment shall be considered in the next meeting. — *PTI*

Qatar FIFA WORLD CUP FINALS 2022

TEARS, HEARTBREAKS AND ECSTASY

The quarterfinal round of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar was no short of drama with some intense see-saw battles filled with high emotions and some memorable action. A quick look at what transpired...

BIG JOLT FOR BRAZIL

Brazil had put on a clinic during their handsome win (4-1) over South Korea during the Round of 16 encounter. With talent all over the pitch, that performance had just enhanced their reputation and made them among favourites to go all the way. But football had other ideas. Up against Croatia, a team known for their steel and knowhow, the Selecao were handed a stern lesson. After a goalless 90 minutes, Brazil finally broke the deadlock through a spectacular effort by their forward Neymar, who equalled Pele's record as country's all-time top scorer (77), in the 105th minute. At that moment of time, the goal, the manner in which it was crafted, seemed fitting to be called the winner. However, Croatian players just refused to give up. They managed to equalise in the dying minutes and the rest is history. In the subsequent penalties, a couple of Brazilians erred while Croatia made no mistake.

Croatia 1-1 Brazil (Croatia won 4-2 on penalties)

3

Croatia have reached at least the semifinals of the World Cup on all three occasions that they have made it out of the group stages (1998, 2018, 2022).

Brazil's Neymar (R) cries after the match against Croatia | AP

MOROCCO MAKE HISTORY, RON IN TEARS

Morocco, first African nation to reach semis of a World Cup, have had a fairytale run and that has been mainly down to their sturdy show at the back as Portugal found out on Saturday night. Youssef En-Nesyri scored the winning goal in the 42nd minute to continue an improbable run that has generated an outpouring of pride in the Arab world. Cristiano Ronaldo, one of sport's greatest players but now a fading force, didn't start for the second straight game and came on as a substitute. The 37-year-old missed his only chance to equalise in stoppage time. He walked right off the field after the final whistle, only briefly stopped by two Morocco players wishing to shake his hand and a spectator who confronted him near the entrance to the tunnel, and was crying as he headed to the locker room.

Morocco 1-0 Portugal

0

Ronaldo has failed to score in all eight of his knockout stage appearances at the World Cup.

Netherlands 2-2 Argentina (Argentina won 4-3 on penalties)

5

Argentina have won the most penalty shootouts in World Cup history (5 out of 6).

Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates with Emiliano Martinez during the shootout against Netherlands | AFP

MESSI, MARTINEZ HEROES FOR ARGENTINA

Lionel Messi was the heartbeat for Argentina once again as he set up the opening goal against Netherlands before firing from the penalty spot in front of 88,235 fans, mostly rooting for Messi, in attendance at the Lusail Stadium. With barely seven minutes of play remaining, it seemed like Argentina would cruise to the semis. But Wout Weghorst, who came off the bench for the Oranje, turned the match in its head, scoring two goals, one during the dying seconds of injury time to shock Argentina. A game which witnessed mass confrontations and heated exchanges went to extra time. After both teams failed to find the winner in extended time, it was time for the shootout where Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez seized his chance to be the hero. He denied the first two efforts from Virgil van Dijk and Steven Berghuis to help the team set up a clash with Croatia.

GIROUD-BLOCK FOR KANE & CO

Late in the match and with the ball on the penalty spot, Harry Kane stood ready, concentrated, eyeing the goal and his teammate from Tottenham in front of it. He started his run, he kicked the ball, and he missed — badly. The shot sailed well over the crossbar and flew into the stands. That penalty chance came in the 84th minute and with England trailing 2-1 against the defending champions from France. The match ended with the same scoreline. Kane had scored from the same spot to make it 1-1 before Olivier Giroud's goal, his fourth of the tournament, in the 78th minute. Giroud was a non-scoring member of the 2018 team but at 36 he is enjoying a memorable tournament in Qatar having earlier overtaken Thierry Henry to become France's all-time top scorer. For England, who had most of the possession and more attempts on goal, it was a rude awakening.

England 1-2 France

7

This is the seventh time England have been knocked out from quarterfinal stages of the World Cup, more than any other team.

France's Adrien Rabiot (top) & Olivier Giroud rejoice after England's Harry Kane missed a penalty kick | EXPRESS

Neymar 'psychologically destroyed'

DOHA: Neymar said Saturday he was "psychologically destroyed" by Brazil's elimination from the World Cup in a penalty shootout defeat to Croatia and admitted it hurt more than any other loss in his career. Brazil must now wait at least another four years to win their sixth World Cup. "I am psychologically destroyed. It is definitely the defeat which has hurt me the most, which left me paralysed for ten minutes after the match, after which I burst into tears without being able to stop," Neymar said in an Instagram message.

FRENCH WORLDLINESS

Clinical Les Bleus show their all-round game excellence, edge England 2-1 in quarterfinals

France players celebrate with fans after their World Cup quarterfinal battle against England on Saturday | AP

IT'S always coming home when it comes to a major men's football championships; Till it's not. Much was made about the England-France quarterfinal, held in the middle of the Qatari desert at the stunning Al Bay Stadium. Much has been written about it since, including a section of the English press focussing on which team played better on the night and how much of a role the referee, Wilson Sampaiao, played in the game. Fact is, France are the better team. From the start of the World Cup here they have been the best team on display. Of course, luck plays a part in a knockout tournament and you need small things to go your way. Small things that often change the course of a game, as well as the outcome.

On Saturday night France played exactly to the plan. They started strong, pushing England's pack and pulling them wide. From Kyle Walker's first tentative defensive header in the 6th minute, which resulted in an audacious reverse helicopter attempt from Olivier Giroud (now 53 goals for France!), it was clear which side would dictate the tempo of the game. And so it went. If you break the game down into 20-25 minute periods, France pressed, got the opener and then sat back and absorbed pressure. They had less control of the ball (less than 35 percent of the first half), yet went into the break 1—0 up courtesy a goal that underlines why talk of a double is real. The move began with a Dayot Upamecano's tackle deep in the France half and boom! The transition was on. Kylian Mbappe cut inside, then played the ball out wide.

Antoine Greizmann, who was everywhere on the pitch, pulled the defence wide then cut back inside and Aurelien Tchouameni finally bagged his first World Cup goal with an inch perfect strike from well outside the box. Jordan Pickford was, perhaps, still a little stiff on a chilly desert night but could have done little to save a strike which was perfectly placed. It was a complete team goal.

Young Jules Kounde had a fair assessment of the game. "We certainly didn't do everything well, but we put so much heart, so much desire, there was so much solidarity, a whole group that really wanted to go to the semifinals," he said. "We gave everything [...] The difference was in the state of mind. I think that since the start of the competition, we have underlined how close this group is on the pitch, and off it too."

"None of us did our jobs the way we were supposed to," the kid told French reporters after the game. France realised they made one mistake more than they should have and got off lucky, without having to go through another 30 or more minutes of football. Giroud, in his usual chill manner, stamped his presence. On TF1, though, he gave a reminder on why he is vital to Didier Deschamps and France. And no, it's not about the goals. If you back at the game you will see how involved Giroud is in everything the team does on both sides of the pitch. He is also always talking to his mates, jumping to their aid when they are brought down, remonstrating with the referee, and doing it all with a smile on his face and the nonchalance that only one with such a chiselled face can carry off. "We did really well defensively," he said. "Especially after the second goal, we were able to stay united. This game reminds me of Belgium in 2018." There was a brief passage in the first half when Giroud forgot the defensive part and figured the nine others (since Mbappe does not prefer to defend) were enough. England piled on the pressure and almost created some good chances. It didn't happen again. State of mind is what it comes down to if you want to win a World Cup. History will be cruel to Harry Kane (who now also has 53 goals for England), despite evidence having surfaced of him practicing kicking balls high into the stands. The England captain led this team, including some precocious talents and extremely likeable humans, as far as their minds allowed. From the time the first ball was kicked, maybe even before, England were just a cheap imitation of France.

Next is Morocco. And Hoalid Regragui knows all bout the mental side of the game. If there is one person I would pick for my team of the tournament, it would be him.

Express GOAL
SIDDHANTH ANEY @ DOHA

Veedol
Engine Oils

MATCH STATS

England		France
58%	Possession	42%
1	Goals	2
16	Shots	8
8	Shots on Target	5
503	Passes	377
87%	Pass accuracy	81%
10	Fouls	14
1	Yellow cards	3
0	Red cards	0
1	Offsides	2
5	Corners	2

158 GOALS

GOAL TICKER

Top scorer: Kylian Mbappe (France): 5

** after 60 games*

Good friends set for crunch tie

GRAHAM DUNBAR @ Doha

Kylian Mbappe of France and Achraf Hakimi of Morocco play for PSG at the club level. The duo, who are good friends, will be up against each other in the semis | AP

KYLIAN Mbappe is going to meet his good friend Achraf Hakimi again at this World Cup. Not like the first time in Qatar last week, when the France star went to visit his Paris Saint-Germain teammate at the Morocco team hotel in downtown Doha.

On Wednesday, Mbappe will be marked by Hakimi in a World Cup semifinal — his path to Morocco's well-defended goal down the French left wing blocked by a player he rates highly. "ACHRAF HAKIMI. BEST RB IN THE WORLD," Mbappe wrote in English on his *Twitter* account in January, referring to the right back position Hakimi occupies for club and country.

It is a high-level duel as both approach a World Cup summit that would be historic for either team. Mbappe versus Hakimi — the tournament's top scorer with five goals in five games against the standout talent in the tournament-best defense that has conceded just once, and it was an own-goal. It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship when the Moroccan player joined Mbappé at PSG in July 2021 from Inter Milan for a transfer fee reported to be 60 million euros ($63 million). Two young men born within several weeks of each other in 1998 — just a few months after France won its first World Cup title — soon got along. Hakimi has talked of how they share the same tastes in music and video games, and that Mbappe helps his Madrid-born friend learn French. Hakimi is a devout Muslim and for the Eid Mubarak holiday this year they teamed up for a video shared by their club. Hakimi guided Mbappé, who has family ties to Morocco's north African neighbour Algeria, through tasting food from the Arab region.

On the field for the French champion, they have a series of rehearsed handshakes and goal celebrations. Playing for PSG gives them many opportunities. "It's easy to play with a player like him," Hakimi has said of Mbappe. "To give him the ball, knowing that he will make the difference."

Mbappe has been the difference at this World Cup, especially when he score twice in wins over Denmark in the group stage and Poland in the round of 16. In the quarterfinals on Saturday, Mbappe was kept in check about as much as is possible by England's speedy right back Kyle Walker. He got just one clear shooting chance that went high and wide. Still, he was involved in the move that led to France's first goal in a 2-1 win and the decisive late winner followed a corner on the left flank that he helped create.

Morocco's defense has stood like an immovable force and all its European opponents so far — Croatia, Belgium, Spain and Portugal — failed to score in four full games plus extra time for the Spanish. Hakimi has helped limit Morocco's opponents to just 10 goal attempts on target combined, according to FIFA post-game statistics. Canada got an own-goal from defender Nayef Aguerd in a 2-1 win for Morocco.

May the best friend win. *AP*

Focus on Southgate's future plans

AGENCIES @ Doha

ENGLAND crashed out of the World Cup against an all too familiar backdrop of heroic failure and agonising over yet another crucial missed penalty in a major championship. But as the Three Lions packed their bags on Sunday there was much about the circumstances of their exit that felt like a break from the past.

No anguished wailing about tactical failings or technical ineptitude. No demands for a root-and-branch review of English football, and no calls for a change of manager. Southgate's current contract runs through to the end of 2024, meaning he will have the chance to lead England at the next European Championship.

The England manager, however, said that he plans to take time to reflect on his future. "I've got to be sure that whatever decision I make is the right one," Southgate said. "I think it's right to take a bit of time to do that because I know in the past how my feelings have fluctuated in the immediate aftermath of tournaments." Southgate may perhaps be persuaded to stay by the array of talent that should remain at his disposal through the next tournament cycle.

'Croatia's mental strength has deep roots'

AGENCIES @ Doha

CROATIA striker Bruno Petkovic says the team's mental strength that has propelled them to two penalty shoot-out wins at the World Cup has deep roots in the country's struggle for independence.

Petkovic scored a late equaliser to cancel out Neymar's opener for Brazil in the quarterfinals, before Zlatko Dalic's team held their nerve to win on spot kicks.

It is a familiar pattern for Dalic's men, who four years ago reached the final via three extra-time wins in the knockout stage, two of them after shootouts. "I think one of the reasons (for this mentality), is that we are a small country," Petkovic said on Sunday. "Even though as players we are young, we know how our country was made and gained independence in the 1990s."

QUICK PASSES

French minister's support for gay rights

PARIS: France's Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera wore a sweater with rainbow-coloured sleeves to France's quarterfinal game in an apparent message of support for gay rights. Oudea-Castera, a former professional tennis player, watched the game from the VIP enclosure as France beat England 2-1 to book a place in the semifinals. The rights of the LGBTQ+ community and the use of the rainbow symbol have been a recurrent point of discussion at the World Cup in Qatar, where homosexuality is illegal.

American soccer writer Wahl honoured

AL KHOR: American soccer writer Grant Wahl was honoured with a tribute from FIFA on the desk where he was due to work on Saturday at the World Cup quarterfinal match between France and England. A posy of white lilies and a framed photograph of Wahl taken in Qatar was left at the media seat that had been assigned to the 49-year-old journalist who died at the World Cup in the early hours of Saturday. "Tonight we pay tribute to Grant Wahl at his assigned seat in Al Bayt Stadium. He should have been here," FIFA said.

9K football-crazy Kolkatans visit Qatar

KOLKATA: The euphoria surrounding this year's FIFA World Cup has been "unprecedented" in football-mad Kolkata, with nearly 9,000 fans having already travelled to Qatar to witness the showpiece event and many more slated to arrive in the next few days, officials said. "Around 10,000-12,000 football fans have travelled to Qatar from eastern India so far, including close to 9,000 people from Kolkata..." said Anil Punjabi, eastern region head of Travel Agents' Federation of India (TAFI).

IOA team to visit Paris to identify training facilities

The executive Council of the Indian Olympic Association met on Sunday under its president PT Usha and decided to send two of its members to Paris to identify facilities for the pre-Olympic Games training for the country's athletes. Usha nominated vice president Gagan Narang & joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey to conduct joint recce for the 2024 Games.

DREAM DIMINISHED

37-year-old Ronaldo fails again in what was likely his last chance to win a WC

TALES AZZONI @ Doha

CRISTIANO Ronaldo choked up with emotion as the tears ran down his cheeks. He momentarily covered his face with his hand, but couldn't hide his disappointment. This moment was too big. It was likely the last World Cup match for the 37-year-old Ronaldo, and probably his last chance to win football's biggest prize.

When it mattered most, he couldn't conjure up the kind of football magic that has made him one of the greatest players the sport has ever seen. Ronaldo was dropped from the starting lineup for the second straight match on Saturday. The five-time player of the year came on as a substitute in the second half with his team already trailing, but his one real chance was saved easily by the opposing goalkeeper. In the end, Morocco beat the Portuguese 1-0 to become the first African team to reach the tournament's semifinals.

It was a sad ending for Ronaldo on the day he made his 196th international appearance, tied for the most in the men's game with Kuwait forward Badr Al-Mutawa. He leaves Qatar as the only player to have scored in five World Cups but remains with eight goals at the tournament, one shy of Eusebio's record with Portugal. Ronaldo, the all-time leading scorer in men's international football with 118 goals, did not say anything about his future after the match, going straight to the team bus from the locker room. He had said before the World Cup he did not plan to retire from the national team, and that he planned to play at least through the 2024 European Championship in Germany — eight years after he helped Portugal win its only major title at Euro 2016.

Ronaldo was first dropped to the bench in the round of 16 against Switzerland, making an appearance as a substitute. His replacement in that match, Gonçalo Ramos, scored a hat trick in the 6-1 victory. Ramos was again selected ahead of Ronaldo on Saturday.

"No regrets," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said of not starting Ronaldo. "Cristiano is a great player, he came in when we thought it was necessary. We have no regret." After receiving the captain's armband from Portugal defender Pepe in the 51st minute, Ronaldo rushed onto the field and started encouraging his teammates. As time ran down, he raised his arms toward the Portugal fans — heavily outnumbered by the Moroccans — and asked for their support.

Ronaldo helped increase the intensity of a Portugal attack that struggled to get past the well-organized Moroccan defense. He immediately created an opportunity with a cross into the area, but then lost possession shortly afterward. He also set up a shot by Joao Felix in the 82nd, but his teammate's attempt was saved. Then Ronaldo had that last-gasp shot in stoppage time that never was a real threat. AP

Cristiano Ronaldo reacts after Portugal lost 0-1 to Morocco on Saturday | AFP

Won't make 'heat of moment' decision: Ron

Lisbon : Cristiano Ronaldo said on Sunday "there's no point in reacting in the heat of the moment," as he responded to Portugal's World Cup elimination. "To win a World Cup for Portugal was the biggest and most ambitious dream of my career. Fortunately, I won many titles of international dimension, including for Portugal," Ronaldo wrote on Instagram. His post did not talk about international retirement but he started Portugal's last two matches in Qatar on the bench, a decision which provoked debate in Portugal and across the football world. AFP

India women win cliffhanger in Super Over

Opener Smriti Mandhana scored 49-ball 79 to help India tie the second T20I against Australia Women | AFP

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THERE are over 45,238 in the stands cheering on at the DY Patil Stadium. It was a crowd this group of Indian women cricketers have never had at home. During the Women's T20 Challenge in Pune, the attendance went up to 8000-10,000. This is a whole new experience for them. The last time they had such a massive crowd support was in the final of the 2020 T20 World Cup.

Smriti Mandhana had set up the chase of 188 with a 49-ball 79 but the onus was now on Richa Ghosh, who was batting 25 off just 12, to take them home in the second T20I against Australia. They needed six runs from two balls and all Richa could manage was a single. Now, Devika Vaidya was on strike. The leg-spinning all-rounder was on a comeback trail herself. She had had a day to forget up until that point with the ball, having gone for 32 runs in three overs. The pressure was on. And irrespective of what happens next, she knew it was a moment she would never forget. It was a match she and the Indian team would never forget. India needed four to level the score and get to super over, and one could feel the anxiousness in the air.

This team has been here before. Coming so near to a big win before crumbling. The 2017 World Cup final, the 2022 ODI World Cup match against South Africa, the gold medal match against Australia in the Commonwealth Games. And everytime, somehow they let go of the momentum and ended up on the wrong side of the result. Every time, it has ended in a heartbreak for the fans.

And it seemed, Sunday might be no different despite all the things that went their way right from the moment the stadium authorities put up a banner that read - Stadium full ticket over. They knew the stadium with a capacity close to 60,000 was going to get filled. And then, Harmanpreet Kaur, to her own surprise, won the toss and opted to bowl.

Although very little went their way in the first 20 overs, they knew when there is a target in front of them it will be easier. And what more, they have one of the best chasers in the world at the top of the order. No one in the world has scored more 50+ scores in T20Is while chasing than Smriti. And it came as no surprise when she and her batting partner, Shafali Verma, unleashed hell on the Australian attack. Smriti was in such a zone that she treated every bowler with disdain, but with a touch of elegance. It almost felt like she wanted to win this match all by herself. She almost did it before getting out.

And her dismissal brought back all the flashbacks. Is it going to be yet another agonising story of so near yet so far. There were a lot of things at stake. And it was all in the hands of Devika. The 25-year-old with no fuss, opened the face of the bat and guided Megan Schutt between short-thirdman and point to the boundary. They had levelled the score and taken it to the Super Over. Their first ever. And when she got another chance to ensure a victory for the team, Smriti grabbed it with both hands - 13 runs in three balls as India finished with 20/1. With the ball, Renuka Singh Thakur completed the rest as Australia managed to score only 16/1. In front of the biggest audience they have had at home in years, the Indian women told the world that this team is different. This is their time and when their moment comes they are not going to let go off it. **Brief scores:** Australia 187/1 in 20 ovs (Mooney 82 n.o, McGrath 70 n.o) **lost to** India 187/5 in 20 ovs (Mandhana 79; Graham 3/22) in Super Over.

EXPRESS READ

Australia clean sweep Windies Test series

ADELAIDE: Australia completed a series sweep with a lopsided 419-run victory Sunday in the day-night Test at the Adelaide Oval, with pace bowlers Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland and Michael Neser snaring three wickets apiece as the West Indies were bundled out for 77 chasing an unlikely 497 to win. Australia won the first test in Perth by 164 runs. **Brief scores:** Aus 511/7 & 199/9 bt WI 214 & 77 in 40.5 ovs (Starc 3/29, Neser 3/22, Boland 3/16).

Pakistan fight back to set up exciting finish

MULTAN: Pakistan's Saud Shakeel and Imam-ul-Haq hit fighting half-centuries on Sunday to foil England's seam and pace attack and set up an exciting finish to the second Test in Multan. Set a challenging 355 runs for victory, Pakistan ended the third day at 198/4, needing another 157 with two full days remaining. **Brief scores:** England 281 & 275 vs Pakistan 202 & 198/4 in 64 ovs (Imam 60, Shakeel 54 n.o).

Kerala Blasters edge past Bengaluru FC

KOCHI: Kerala Blasters FC reached a landmark after notching their fifth successive win in the ISL with a 3-2 result against Bengaluru FC. Marko Leskovic, Dimitrios Diamantakos and Apostolos Giannou were on target for the Blasters. Sunil Chhetri got off the mark this season for the Blues, and Javi Hernandez scored his third goal but Bengaluru FC fell to their sixth defeat of the season.

1st Test: Easwaran to replace injured Rohit

CHATTOGRAM: India captain Rohit Sharma was on Sunday ruled out of the first Test against Bangladesh, starting here on Wednesday, due to a thumb injury. Rohit had gone back to India after hurting his left thumb while fielding in the second ODI against Bangladesh in Mirpur on December 7. K L Rahul will captain the side in Rohit's absence. Abhimanyu Easwaran has been named as Rohit's replacement.

NUGGETS & TRIVIA

The African continent boycotted the 1966 World Cup. They protested against having three continents play against each other for a single spot in the finals.

The most played match in the history of World Cup is Argentina vs Germany. The match has taken place seven times – 1958, 1966, 1986, 1990, 2006, 2010 and 2014.

In 1958 World Cup, French striker Just Fontaine scored the most goals in a single edition. He scored 13 goals in just six matches.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my client Mr. **Sri. K.V. Naidu S/o K.C. Naidu,** R/at No. 13, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, R.M.V. 2nd Stage, Dollars Colony, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 094 is the absolute owner of the schedule property as shown in the schedule hereunder.

My client has filed the suit against one **Feroze P. Irani S/o Late. Parveez A Irani** and **Sri. Lokesh T.L. S/o Late. Lakshmappa** in the same as been numbered as O.S. No. 1192/2022 before the 1st Addl. Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural for adjudication and also my client file the R.A. No. 631/2022 before the Asst, commissioner Bangalore North, as passed the stay order in respect the schedule property.

It is learnt that Feroze P. Irani S/o Late. Parveez A Irani and Sri Lokesh T.L. S/o Late. Lakshmappa are making afforts to sell the schedule property to third parties. Therefore, the public are hereby warned not to have any transaction regarding the schedule property. And inspite of this public notice, if any person/s take risk in entering into any transaction, the same shall not binding on the my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the agricultural property bearing Sy.No.102/P1 (New Sy.No. 102/3) measuring, 4 Acres 15 Guntas of land, situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Remaining land of Sy.No.102, **West by :** Remaining land of Sy.No.102, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Remaining land of Sy.No.102.

AMARESH C.V., Advocate
No.39/2, 5th Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, Opp. SBI Head office, (Old Mysore Bank Head Office), K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009.
Mobile No. 9008447219
Dated: 10.12.2022

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
Dr.Y.S.R VIDYUT SOUDHA, CORPORATE OFFICE, ITI COLLEGE ROAD, VIJAYAWADA-520 008

APCPDCL/HRC/GMC/01/2022-23
INVITING Tender on A.P e-Procurement Portal

Tenders are invited by the undersigned from IRDAI Registered Insurance Companies for providing Group Health Insurance Policy for regular employees and their dependents, pensioners and family pensioners of APCPDCL, APSPDCL AND APEPDCL for a period of 1 (one) year. The Tender Notice will be available for download on A.P e-Procurement portal from 12.12.2022. Due date for submission of bids is 26.12.2022. For any further information, please visit https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.apcpdcl.in.

Place: Vijayawada, Date: 09.12.2022 Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (HRD)

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST ID CARD

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of **Mr. Muniraja L** issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having **ID card No. 2206997** has been found missing and/ or lost on 03-12-2022 Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Service & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli Hosur Main Road, Bangaluru-560068

Therefore all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said **ID Card No. 2206997**

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/ her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

Place: Bangaluru **Sd/-**
Date : 09-12-2022 **For ICICI Bank Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has intended to purchase the flat described in the schedule mentioned hereunder. The said properties standing in the name of Kartik Sunder. If any person has got any objections, right, title or interest in any manner whatsoever in the schedule properties, may approach the following addressees with the documents of title in the schedule properties within **7 days** from today.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the bearing Flat No.304, measuring, 1887 sq.ft on Third floor of the building No.B known as "Whispering Meadows" situated at NagashettyHalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North, and bounded on:-

Sri Thyagaraja .B, Advocates
5/1, 2nd Floor, Room No. 18, SLN Mahal, 3rd Cross, Link Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003.
Ph. 9844211270

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number		Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South-West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/1141/2022-23 Date: 06.12.2022	1	Rs. 27,31,634/- Rs. 54,700/-	27.12.2022 upto 04:00 pm	29.12.2022 after 03:00 pm
			2	Rs. 49,39,435/- Rs. 98,800/-		

The details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the under signed office during working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (South West-1)

DIPR/CP/MIA/3466/2022-23

Your Guide to Spicy living
INDULGE
Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE

Name of Work: Outsourcing of Manpower for Maintenance work of 25KV AC Over Head Equipment and Power supply installation in ROHA to MADURE section under Ratnagiri Region on Konkan Railway route in the state of Maharashtra. **Notice No: KR/CO/EL/AMC-TRD/T/11/22, Date: 12.12.2022. Completion Period:** Twenty Four Months. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 5,78,81,001/- excluding GST. **Bid Security:** Rs. 4,39,400/-. **Last Date & time for Online Submission of Tender: 02.01.2023 up to 15.00 Hrs. Opening of Tender :** On **02.01.2023 at 15.30 Hrs.** Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. **Submission of Tender Documents:** Through IREPS. Manual Tender Documents shall not be accepted.

AYURVEDIC KAYAM TABLET

Goodbye CONSTIPATION!

KAYAM TABLET

provides relief from constipation and other associated problems such as acidity, gas, indigestion, headache, mouth ulcers, sour belching, loss of appetite, burning sensation in stomach and chest, lack of energy, skin pain, etc. By taking one Kayam Tablet in the night can help you be relieved from constipation in the morning. Made from ayurvedic ingredients and herbs, Kayam Tablets are completely natural and harmless. Retain your energy by bidding farewell to constipation.

E-Mail : contact@kayamchurna.com
Available at Medical and Ayurvedic Stores | Buy online : amazon | 1mg

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Mahesh N, 2) Mrs. Dhanalakshmi K B	Loan Account No. 47469420001934 Loan Amount: Rs.36,54,949/-	**Schedule-II - Details of Secured Assets - Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Western portion of Site No.16, BBMP Khata No.93/3B/16, Old BBMP Katha No.14, Municipal Katha No.93/3B, situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore. **East by:** Eastern portion of Site No.16, **West by:** Property No.17, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property No.21. Measuring East to west 20 Feet, North to South 30 Feet, total Measuring 600 Sq.feet.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2022 Demand Notice Date: 07.12.2022	Rs.37,97,138.25 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight and Paisa Twenty Five Only) as on 05-12-2022
2	1) Sree Venkateshwara Saw Mill, 2) Mr. Prakash Kumar N, 3) Mr. Shiva Kumar N, 4) Mr. Suresh Kumar, 5) Mr. Nagaraja. N	Loan Account No. 45348640001485, 45349660000531, 45349660002254 & OD A/c No.: 4534020000233300 Loan Amount: Rs.1,46,00,000/-, Rs.17,63,280/-, Rs.11,40,000/-	**Schedule-II - Details of Secured Assets - Mortgaged Immovable Property: Item No.1:** All that piece and parcel of the Northern Side of the TMC Khatha Sy.No.8/12, 8/13, property No.46-20-33A comprising RCC Building Ground Floor+ Two Floor Situated at Kolar Road, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli taluk, 5th Division, Ward No.22 and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property belongs to Mr. Rajanna, **West by:** Property belongs to Mr. K.M.Muniraju, **North by:** Property belongs to Mr. N.Nagaraja, **South by:** Property belongs to Muniyappa and 20 Feet Road from Kolar Sompura Road. Measuring East to West: 75 Feet, North to South: 47 Feet, Totally 3525 Sq.ft. **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearin S.No. sy. No, 8/3B and New Sy.No.8/12 measuring 0-02 ¼ Guntas and Sy.No.8/3B, Sy No.8/13 measuring 0-05 ¼ Guntas Totally measuring 0-07 ½ Gunats both the property are adjacent each other Situate at Haradipura Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property belongs to Mr. Rajanna, **West by:** Property belongs to Mr. K.M. Muniraju, **North by:** Remaining property belongs to Mr. N. Nagaraja, **South by:** Property belongs to Muniyappa and 20 Feet Road from Kolar Sompura Road. Measuring 0.07 ½ Guntas.	Date of NPA: 29-06-2022 Demand Notice Date: 09-12-2022	Rs.1,28,27,806.63 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Eight Lakh Twenty Seven thousand Eight Hundred Six and Paisa Sixty Three Only), Rs.11,13,571.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One Only), Rs.9,81,411.00 (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Eleven Only) and for OD a/c Balance Book Amount is Rs.54,49,795.60 (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five and Paisa Sixty Only)

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No.6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 10.12.2022, Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

FORM NO. 14: [See Regulation 33(2)]
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I- BENGALURU
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore

DRC NO: 1140/2019

Canara Bank, Gauribidanur Branch, Gauribidanur - 561 208, Chikkaballapura District. ...Certificate Holder

Versus

Sri. C.Rajanna & Others ...Certificate Debtor(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

To
1. Sri. C.Rajanna, S/o. Sri. Chikkanna, Res at: Ardeshahalli Village & Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
2. Sri. Rajappa @ Raja Reddy, S/o. Sri. Muniswamy Reddy, Res at: Addevishwanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.
3. Sri. Narasa Reddy, S/o. Sri. Muniswamy Reddy, Res at : Addevishwanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.
4. Sri. Chikkaraju @ M.Krishna Reddy, S/o. Sri. Muniswamy Reddy, Res at: Addevishwanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA No.1213/2017** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on **14/11/2019** an amount of **Rs. 48,34,762/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Two Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings in O.A. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of the notice and other processes that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on **13th day of Dec, 2019.**

Sd/- (Deepainduvani S) Recovery Officer-II
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that a purchase transaction is envisaged in connection with the immovable properties morefully described in the **"Schedule"** hereto and hereinafter referred to as **'Schedule Properties'.** The owner detailed in the Schedule below has represented that she is the absolute owner of her respective portions of the Schedule Properties, as detailed in the Schedule hereto, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Any person/s other than the owner mentioned below, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, interest or claims whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their objections, if any, to the proposed purchase transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties. The said objections must be in writing, together with the documentary proof of such claim/s and should reach the address given below within a period of **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the owner mentioned below has/ have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties totally admeasuring **08 Acres 10 Guntas,** situated at **Kachinayakanahalli Village, Bashettihalli Hobli, Sidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapur District,** morefully described in the table hereunder:
Name of the owner: **Smt. Nagarathna R.**

Sl. No.	Sy No.	Extent A	Extent G	Boundaries
1.	18/1	01	16	**East by :** Kere Hangala; **West by :** Land bearing Survey No.19; **North by :** Land bearing Survey No.7; and **South by :** Land bearing Survey No.18/2.
2.	19	04	04	**East by :** Land bearing Survey No.18; **West by :** Land bearing Survey No.21; **North by :** Land bearing Survey No.7; and **South by :** Land bearing Survey No.20.
3.	07	02	30	**East by :** Land bearing Survey No.7; **West by :** Land bearing Survey No.7; **North by :** Land bearing Survey No.7; and **South by :** Land bearing Survey Nos.18, 19, 21.

Sri. Manjunatha, No.146, Doddamma Temple Road, Byatarayanapura, Sahakarnagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560092.
Phone : 9035606565, 8217305118
Bangalore Date:12.12.2022

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com | THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS | @thenewindianexpress @newindianexpress The New Indian Express

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

12.12.2022
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Yuvi's birthday

Former Indian slow left arm bowler and aggressive left hand batsman Yuvraj Singh was born on this day in 1981

STEPPING INTO CRICKET

He was sent to Mumbai by his father, a former Indian pacer, to train at Elf-Vengsarkar Cricket Academy. He was selected in the U-19 Punjab State Team and then the national team

BIG RECORDS

In 2003, Yuvraj scored the first of his seventeen international centuries during a ODI series in Dhaka, where he scored an unbeaten 102

RETIREMENT

Having fought with a rare, germ cancer that kept him out of action for over a year, he announced his retirement from international cricket in 2019

Check out the events in the city

PG 2

Avin Thaliath
(@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a hamper worth ₹2,000 from Copper Chimney

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. Cotton Candy 2. Pappadam 3. Idli

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) R Vani
2) Anil Kumar Janardhan
3) Rana T

'J H PATEL WAS A MAN WITH NO FILTER'

As a staunch socialist CM of Karnataka and the first to speak in a regional language in Parliament, J H Patel was a key figure in the state's politics. An English translation of a collection of articles about the late statesmen is being launched on Monday, ahead of which writer-translator Preethi Nagaraj gives *CE* a glimpse into Patel's colourful career

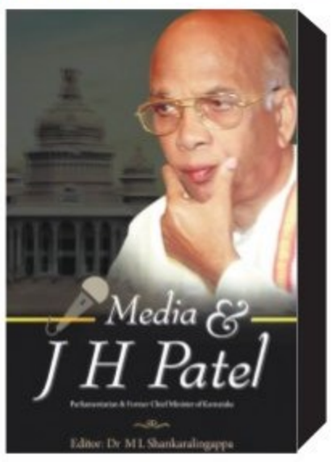
There are many contradictions to J H Patel throughout his life. When someone presented him a convincing argument, he was willing to change his mind. His opinions were fluid

Preethi Nagaraj, writer and translator

DESE GOWDA

IT was the year 1967. The fourth Lok Sabha had been in session for just a few days when a first-time Parliamentary member from a small town in central Karnataka created history by speaking in fluent Kannada as the house listened in rapt attention. "Nobody had spoken in a regional language in Parliament until J H Patel did. The speaker allowed him to go ahead. Nobody from the south had until then affirmed their right to speak in their mother tongue," says Preethi Nagaraj, writer and translator of *Media & J H Patel*, a collection of pieces on the former Parliamentarian and the 15th Chief Minister of Karnataka. Originally published in Kannada – edited by M L Shankaralingappa – the English version will be released on Monday.

As a staunch socialist and ardent follower of Ram Manohar Lohia, Patel was known for his progressive ideals. But his career was also controversial given his fondness for alcohol and women. Nagaraj feels his less-than-ideal traits often overshadow his political acumen. "We had heard stories about how, being from an affluent family, he gave up all his assets during the Land Tenancy Act. He was probably one of the few politicians who sold property to contest elections," she says, adding, "It's unfortunate that some still view him through his other traits. Many politicians had similar habits, but none had the gall to admit it. Patel was a man with no filter."



Pictures of the former Chief Minister of Karnataka J H Patel in various stages of his illustrious political career over the course of his life | EXPRESS ARCHIVES

However, Nagaraj feels that such ideals might have also played a part in undoing his career in later years. He was criticised for not paying enough attention to his own constituencies, often leading to humiliating defeats. "He never allowed family members to interfere with work, so he could not delegate like most politicians do," she shares. "Once, when he was travelling on a rocky road, Patel got annoyed and asked the driver who the MLA of that constituency was. The driver replied that it was Patel's own constituency."

Patel was also known for being pragmatic and open to new ideas. He would stray away from pure socialism if the new idea would be beneficial to the people. One such idea he floated was to privatise railways, attracting accusations that he was forgoing his own ideals. "There are many contradictions to him and his ideals throughout various stages of his life. When someone presented him with a convincing argument backed by data, he was willing to change his mind. His opinions were fluid," Nagaraj explains, adding that towards the end of his career, he strayed away from socialism, exploring spirituality and taking superstitions to heart.

Following a disastrous decision to call for early elections during the final months of his term as CM on October 7, 1999, Patel and his political alliance faced a rout. Soon after, his health deteriorated and he passed away in 2000. "What broke him at the age of 70 was the death of his granddaughter. A girl of just five or six, she died in an accident. It took a huge toll on him, and his health kept failing," she concludes.

CITY READ

Meeting on 'Forex for You' organised by RBI

On December 6, a Town Hall meeting on 'Forex for You' was organised in Bengaluru by the Reserve Bank of India. The event was attended by Gurumurthy R, regional director, RBI Bengaluru; L V Prakahakar, MD & CEO, Canara Bank; Dr K Balamurugan, commissioner, Customs Bengaluru. The meeting was attended by 230 exporters and startups along with 13 top officials from public sector banks, private sector banks and foreign banks. Issues concerning export, import and funds transfer pricing were discussed. Additionally, the FEDAI Bengaluru chapter was inaugurated during the meeting.

Aviva Bidapa and Abishek Ambareesh got engaged in a private ceremony with close family members and the film fraternity in attendance

The newly-engaged couple with Abishek Ambareesh's mother and MP, Sumalatha

I have known Abi since he was a little boy. Ambareesh uncle's family is like my own. It was a small gathering where everyone knew each other. I wish for the couple to be happy

Guru Kiran, music director

It's official

EXPRESS FEATURES

THE gloomy weather had no effect on the Ambareesh-Bidapa household as it turned out to be one of the happiest days of their lives. Actor Abishek Ambareesh, son of late Rebel Star Ambareesh and actor-politician Sumalatha got engaged on Sunday to fashion designer Aviva Bidapa, daughter of Judith and Prasad Bidapa, fashion guru. The ceremony took place at Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru with close family and friends from the industry present.

The guest list included Challenging Star Darshan, Rocking Couple Yash and Radhika Pandit, politicians R Ashok, and Dr K Sudhakar among many others. The director of his next film, *Kaali*, Krishna and Swapna Krishna were also present to wish the couple the best.

Music director Guru Kiran and his wife who were also in attendance said the newly-couple looked absolutely beautiful. "I have known Abi since he was a little boy. Ambareesh uncle's family is like my own. It was a small gathering where everyone knew each other. Many people have travelled from across the globe to attend this ceremony. Abi is also that sort of a person who people will go out of their way for. I wish for the couple to be happy," says an elated Guru Kiran.

Abishek looked dapper in a traditional kurta-pyjama along with a silk jacket with embroidered work on it, while Aviva sported a light pink traditional pink saree which was paired with a designer blouse from the label by her friend, Megha Kapoor.

The couple, who has been dating for the last four years, is said to be tying the knot in early 2023. On the professional side, Abishek has two movies in the pipeline- *Bad Manners* and *Kaali*.

XPRESS FOCUS

The Rise of Robotics: How to Upskill for a Future-proof Career?

PROF PRASHANTH N

Today, India is the fifth largest economy in the world and has one of the most robust and active start up culture. The products that are hitting the market are smarter, faster, and disruptive in nature. Most of these products are an outcome of multidisciplinary research and development. Future engineers graduating from the universities need to be adept in multidisciplinary technologies; One such technological field that immediately comes to my mind is Robotics.

From personal robots to robots unravelling the mysteries of the universe through space exploration, the application of robotics is increasing rapidly. The global industrial robotics market is anticipated to grow at a CAGR of 13.5% between 2021-2027 with a projected global market size of 189.3 billion USD.

With such a prolific growth, it is inevitable that the demand for a skilled workforce will also increase. The skills inculcated and amalgamated during the study of Robotics also comes in handy in development of smart products in several applications including but not limited to electric vehicle technologies, self-driving cars or even design and development of robots in disguise such as an ATM or a vending machine.

The Pedagogy to Train Multidisciplinary Courses such as Robotics

Several universities in India have already started to mobilise their resources to cater to the demands of the future society. IISc has established ARTPARK to promote AI & Robotics with a seed funding of INR 230 Crore from the Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India, and Govt of Karnataka.

Further, Bosch along with the IISc has set up the Centre for Cyber Physical Systems and the same group in association with Nokia are in the process of establishing a centre of excellence for Networked Robots.

IIT Delhi has established the Centre of Excellence on Biologically inspired Robots and Drones (BIRD). Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT), a Tier-I engineering institute in Bengaluru has established a Centre for Robotics Research supported and catalysed by the Vision Group on Science and Technology, Govt of Karnataka.

This centre focuses on state-of-the-art research and training on robotics and allied disciplines. Also, for the first time in the state of Karnataka an M. Tech programme (2 years) on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence has been introduced by NMIT from AY 2022-23.

The introduction of such programmes at Higher Education Institutions (HEI) will go a long way in bridging the gap between the supply and demand of skilled workforce. Unlike traditional courses, Robotics requires a special pedagogy to upskill the students. The institutions which are exploring introduction of a Robotics programme in their curriculum need to adopt STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts & Maths) kits in their curriculum.

Few examples of these kits include Vex Robotics, TETRIX from Pitsco, Fischertechnik, Lego Mindstorms, Makeblock, Bioloid etc. Some of these kits are accompanied by their own curriculum.

One must choose the right STREAM kit in order to provide a 360-degree holistic learning experience covering all the sub systems of robotics. With the help of these kits rigorous first-hand training on subsystems of Robots and its integration can be taught. Further, predesigned kits with onboard controllers, sensors and actuators should be avoided since they do not provide insights into mechanical design, synthesis, and analysis.

The theoretical and practical training on Robotics should be taught together in a multidisciplinary environment. This helps students to test the limitations, assumptions of theoretical principles & validate it with practical applications.

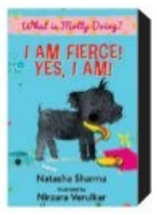
After hands-on training on each of the robot sub systems, the course instructors may carry out assessments by posing the real-world open-ended engineering challenges/problems to the student teams. The benefit of posing open ended engineering problems is that each team may derive a solution to the same problem using different methods, and this cultivates creativity and ingenuity among the students.

In this way, students will also learn new techniques to solve problems by observing their peers. Course instructors may also assign individual roles such as Engineer (Builder), Software Specialist (Programmer), Information Specialist (Gets necessary technical information for the team to move forward) and Project manager (whip-cracker) to each team member. These roles may be rotated among the members for each open-ended engineering problem. This enables all members of the team to learn not only technical skills but also crucial communication and project management skills.

The students may also be encouraged to keep an engineering journal to track their progress. In this way, Robotics and in particular the integration of its sub systems can be successfully delivered to students in an engaging and holistic manner. Such type of pedagogy has been successfully implemented at NMIT, Bengaluru. Interested readers may visit the laboratory and get a first-hand experience of the cutting-edge robotics education.

(The author is Head, Centre for Robotics Research, NMIT, Bengaluru)

BOOK NOOK



I am Fierce! Yes, I am!

By Natasha Sharma

If dogs could be ninja, Molly would be one or so she likes to believe. This funny story will make youngsters grin with the candy-coloured pictures that add to the zest of Molly's very unique second picture book appearance.

Take the Chance

By Rakesh Dewan

Featuring 30 real life experiences, this book will teach you to say 'Yes' in situations where you are tempted to say 'No'. Saying 'Yes' brings opportunities and allows life to bloom. It will leave the readers to ponder on the daily-life decisions they make.

Unveiling Jazbaa

By Aayush Puthran

Unveiling Jazbaa is a story that explores the tale of Pakistan's women's cricket team and describes the amazing journey the players took to revolutionise both their nation and the game itself.

Next in Line

By Jeffrey Archer

It is a suspense thriller where every page takes you through different turns and the conclusion hits you like a tank round. A compelling story of a detective sent to investigate a team.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Revisiting Classics

Bhoomija's *Triveni*, is an evening of music featuring the greatest artistes of all time. Witness Ustad Zakir Hussain, Kala Ramnath and Jayanthi Kamaresh perform live.

WHERE: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram
WHEN: December 13, 7.30 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Monday Madness

Time to make your weekdays a little special! Get over the Monday blues with a good ambience and watch DJ Mohit perform Live!

WHERE: Casinova Pub, Koramangala
WHEN: December 12, 7 pm **CALL:** 08951980823

Feeling Puzzled

In the mood to solve some puzzles? Go and register for Puzzled Pint and take on some challenges.

WHERE: Watson's, Indiranagar
WHEN: December 13, 6.30 pm
DETAILS: insider.in

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Tired of the day's workload? Drop by for a Comedy Carnival and enjoy it with some delicious food.

WHERE: Pluto's Bar and Kitchen, Indiranagar
WHEN: December 12, 8 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Theatrical Monday

Kathlalli Karadige is a situational comedy play revolving around Siddharth, an artist. Witness the dreams of an artist through a dose of comedy.

WHERE: Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road
WHEN: December 12, 7 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Kayaking Experience

The Triquetra is full of nature, surrounded by lush greeneries. Once you enter the premises, you will feel as if you have entered the lap of nature.

WHERE: Triquetra (Aqua Escape), Koramangala
WHEN: December 12 onwards, 7 am
DETAILS: allevents.in

Paint it out

Every painting tells a story. What's yours? Learn the Bhil art form and enjoy painting different objects.

WHERE: Zoom
WHEN: December 12, 5 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Tunes de France

Looking to add some French flavour to your playlist? La Feline has you covered. Enjoy some French pop music on a Monday evening.

WHERE: Alliance Francaise de Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar
WHEN: December 13, 6 pm **DETAILS:** allevents.in

MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW

Sandalwood actor Tejaswini Prakash performs on the occasion of a New Year's announcement at Country Club | VINOD KUMAR T

QUICK FIX

FRENCH TOAST

Contributed by **Massera Fatima**, Hyderabad

INGREDIENTS

- **Milk:** 1 cup
- **Eggs:** 1 cup
- **Sugar:** 2 tbsp
- **Cinnamon powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Vanilla essence:** 1 tsp
- **Bread:** 6 thick slices
- **Butter to fry**

METHOD

- In a bowl whisk eggs add sugar, milk, cinnamon powder gradually.
- Dip the bread in the bowl mixture, soaking both the sides.
- In a pan, add butter, transfer the bread slices to it and cook until golden brown on both the sides.
- Serve hot with caramel sauce, vanilla sauce or whipped cream along with favourite fresh fruits.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

PARSVOTTANASANA VARIATION 1

(PYRAMID POSE VARIATION 1)

It is a modification of Parsvottanasana Hands On Hips, with a difference of hands being placed on the hips. Included in peak pose yoga sequences, it prepares for the final foundational yoga pose - Parsvottanasana.

STEPS

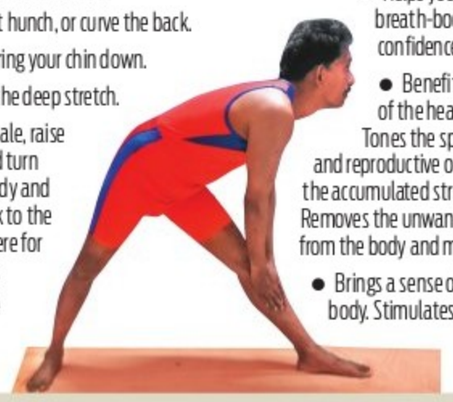
- Start in Tadasana (Mountain Pose), legs together, hands by the side of your body, taking a few deep breaths.
- Inhale, lengthen your spine, walk or jump to spread your legs sideways 3-3½ feet with your hands on the waist in Prasarita Tadasana Hands On Hips.
- Turn your body towards the left, bringing the left foot out to about 90 degrees, turning the right foot to about 40 degrees inwards.
- Square the hips without pinching the lower back, ensuring the hips and chest align.
- Inhale, engage the core, draw the navel in. While exhaling, bend forward in Parsvottanasana Hands On Hips, a half forward fold, torso parallel to the ground.
- With a flat back, place the hands on the shin of the front leg. Stay here, back straight, for about 6 breaths.
- Breathe. Don't hunch, or curve the back.
- Look down. Bring your chin down.
- Breathe, feel the deep stretch.
- To release, inhale, raise your arms and turn your upper body and both feet back to the center. Stay here for a few breaths.
- Repeat on the other side.

LIMITATIONS

Those with injuries to knees, hips, lower back, shoulders, ankles or hamstring; who have undergone recent hip/ abdominal surgery; have abdominal hernia, high blood pressure, vertigo, dizziness, chest pain, shortness of breath, general body weakness, headaches, or joint pain/ arthritis, should avoid. Senior citizens, pregnant women should have guidance of a teacher.

BENEFITS

- Encourages sthiram (stability) and sukham (with ease).
- Stretches the back of the leg muscles, hamstrings and calves, and lengthens and strengthens upper and middle spine, neck, and shoulders.
- Helps you gain better breath-body awareness and confidence.
- Benefits the function of the heart and the lungs. Tones the spleen, kidney, liver, and reproductive organs. ● Relaxes the accumulated stress and tension. Removes the unwanted gas or energy from the body and mind.
- Brings a sense of calmness to the body. Stimulates the digestive system.



By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

ORI DEVUDA (Telugu)

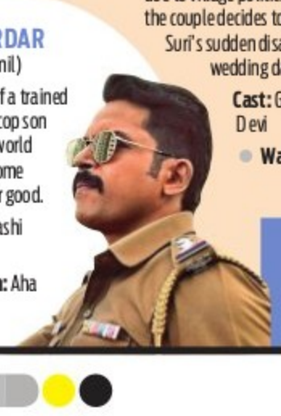
Arjun is bound to his best friend Anu. They get married eventually, but Arjun refers to his marriage as 'loveless love' as he is in love with his childhood friend Meera. He decides to call off the marriage. On the day of his divorce, he encounters two mysterious men and is given a second shot at life.

Cast: Vishwak Sen, Venkatesh, Mithila Palkar
Watch on: Aha

SARDAR (Tamil)

This is the story of a trained RAW agent and his cop son who hold opposing world views but have to come together for the larger good.

Cast: Karthi, Raashi Khanna
Watch on: Aha



ALLURI (Telugu)

Police officer Alluri Seethamaraju is a truthful and responsible individual. No one is going to put up with injustice. He reprimands in his own manner. As a result, rewards are acquired through transfers between locations. What types of challenges did Rama Raju face throughout his life? What justice did the khaki uniform allow?

Cast: Sree Vishnu, Kayadu Lohar
Watch on: Aha

1996 DHARMAPURI (Telugu)

A budding love story between Suri and Malli in Dharmapuri village turns tragic due to village politics. Despite all odds, the couple decides to tie the knot, but Suri's sudden disappearance on the wedding day comes as a shock.

Cast: Gagan Vihari, Aparna Devi
Watch on: Aha

SWATHI MUTHYAM (Telugu)

Bala also known as Bala Murali Krishna, is a grown man with a childlike heart. At his marriage to Bhagyalakshmi, a girl's phone call causes chaos, drives Bala into a rage, and ultimately causes the marriage to be called off. Will Bala find a solution?

Cast: Bellamkonda Ganesh Babu, Varsha Bollamma
Watch on: Aha

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NENU MEEKU BAAGA KAVALSINA VAADINI (Telugu)

Teju, an alcoholic, takes a cab every day to get home. The cab driver, Vivek, assists her and inquires about her past. Teju tells Vivek about her breakup on the way back home. Then, Vivek tells Teju his love tale. The two love stories are related. What links the two?

Cast: Kiran Abbavaram, Sanjana Anand
Watch on: Aha

CRAZY FELLOW (Telugu)

Nani joins a dating app and falls for Chinni without seeing her. When the couple meets, Nani surprisingly proposes his love to Chinni. What will she say?

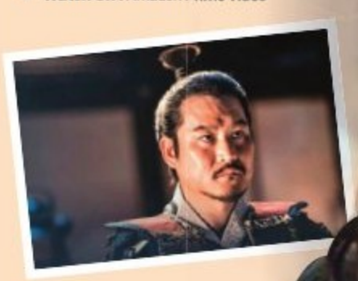
Cast: Aadi Saikumar, Digangana Suryavanshi, Mirnaa Menon
Watch on: Aha

FOREIGN

HALLOWEEN ENDS (English)

The saga of Michael Myers and Laurie Strode comes to a spine-chilling climax in this final installment of the franchise.

Cast: Jamie Lee Curtis, Andi Matichak, Rohan Campbell
Watch On : Amazon Prime Video



HANSAN (Korean)

The follow-up to 2014's The Admiral: Roaring Currents, this movie explores the historic Battle of Hansan Island.

Cast: Park Hae-il, Yo-Han Byun, Sung-Ki Ahn
Watch On : Amazon Prime Video

THE INVITATION (English)

The Invitation is a contemporary thriller that tells the story of young woman invited to a lavish destination wedding in England, only to realise her presence at the wedding has sinister motivations.

Cast: Nathalie Emmanuel, Thomas Doherty, Hugh Skinner
Watch On : Amazon Prime Video

TICKET TO PARADISE (English)

George Clooney and Julia Roberts team up as exes who find themselves on a shared mission: to stop their lovestruck daughter from making the same mistake they once made. Ticket to Paradise is a romantic comedy about the sweet surprise of second chances.

Cast: George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Kaitlyn Dever
Watch On : Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar:	₹199 for 3 months
Zee5:	₹399 for 3 months
Prime Video:	₹179 per month
Netflix:	₹149 per month

Many Bengalureans are looking forward to the Kochi Muziris Biennale, which returns to Kerala for its 10-year anniversary with exhibitions and shows, after being postponed twice and cancelled the third time

A RESILIENT RETURN

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN
jithakarthikeyan2@gmail.com

(Jitha Karthikeyan is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)

THE Kochi Muziris Biennale is back after a pandemic induced hiatus, and the excitement is clearly infectious. Rising like a phoenix from the throes of uncertainty in a world still coming to terms with the after effects of the deadly Covid virus, the fifth edition of the Biennale opens on December 12, 2022 in spaces across Fort Kochi, Ernakulam and Mattancherry. With multiple lockdowns and Covid restrictions leading to the cancellation of this edition, earlier scheduled for 2020, India's first biennale of international contemporary art, launched a decade ago, returns with tales of optimism and resilience. Curated by artist, Shubigi Rao and titled 'In Our Veins Flow Ink and Fire', the fifth Biennale features 90 artists from all over the world.

In a free-wheeling conversation, Bose Krishnamachari, the president of the Kochi Muziris Biennale, opens up about the challenges that needed to be surmounted in a post pandemic environment, his vision for the future and why Kochi is the perfect setting for an international Biennale.

The Kochi Muziris Biennale is 10 years old. How has the journey been?

The Kochi Biennale has always been an artist-initiated project, conceived and curated by artists. This has been a unique feature that has helped us sustain and grow in the past decade. The Biennale is an international exhibition, but a large proportion of the audience is regional. This again, is a feature that makes it distinctive. Everyone reads the exhibition sites through their understanding of life. The local people are enthusiastic and embrace it as their own, in more ways than one. This is a people's Biennale. It's never an easy task to bring people to an unknown location of learning. Even the International Biennale Association was taken aback by the local participation.

Many people have played an important role in my journey to make the vision of a world class Biennale possible in India. The board, my colleagues, the programming heads, the curators of each edition, the generous patrons and the state government have all immensely contributed to its success.

You say this is the first Biennale that is conceived and curated by artists.

True. This model has now inspired many biennales globally. We are not challenging the relevance of curators. But my belief is that artists understand the practice of art and also have a clearer understanding of spaces. An artist works with materials and can thus understand the process of materiality, the content and the scale of it. That is a crucial aspect in an exhibition of this magnitude. There are lots of layers to understanding sites, a lot of history, memories and how you can give energy to that site. And an artist can do that with the sensitivity that is required.

Did your curatorial experiences reaffirm your faith in the artist as curator?

I've always surrounded myself with a lot of people from the creative world, even in my earlier days, from film makers and designers to artists and writers. The first person who asked me to curate a show and opened my eyes to the fact that an artist can conceptualise a show was the late Akbar Padamsee. However, that plan did not materialise. But the first curatorial effort happened in 2004, in Kerala. When invited for a talk at the Kashi Art Gallery in Kochi, the owners came up with the suggestion. My only condition to accept their offer was that the artists in my show would be hosted for a week. They readily agreed and the show eventually got rave reviews. After that, offers to curate kept periodically coming my way. For me personally though, the show I consider historically important as a curator was Double Enders, the first large-scale project of contemporary artists from Kerala to happen in India in 2005 with 89 artists. Therefore, it's only natural that when the Kochi Biennale was conceptualised, it had to be an artist-driven initiative.

Why Kochi?

To create any kind of a temporary exhibition, an important aspect is locating a site specific city. The Biennale is a temporary museum. The city transforms into a museum during the course of the show. The city and the sites of the exhibition merge as one entity. In this context, an ideal secular site already existed in the city of Kochi. We only had to plant a seed which grew by itself, as the potential of multiculturalism and linguistic diversity was already there. There are several languages that people speak here, which itself is its strength. That heritage of knowledge allowed people to be naturally sensitised to aesthetics through visual experiences. No learning was needed. When we started the Biennale in 2012, there was no title to show. It simply was the Kochi Muziris Biennale. Muziris was the mother of Kochi. There is a kind of an umbilical relationship. And in every edition, a new curator gives a new life to the site, which is also interesting to observe.

The fifth edition of the Kochi Biennale had to be postponed twice and then cancelled due to the Covid - pandemic. It certainly must have been a challenging period for the Biennale Foundation and especially for you.

Yes, the challenges after the pandemic were multifold, financial hurdles being the toughest to handle. Any large scale exhibition requires sound economic backing to run smoothly. With regard to this edition, we had to face spiralling costs generated by post pandemic conditions, which was the biggest challenge. Transportation costs, for instance, have tripled. Artworks had to be shipped from various countries which was unavoidable. Travel costs of artists have also soared, with airfares costing much more now than before the pandemic and increased hotel tariffs affecting accommodation expenses. It must, however, be added that this is good for the local economy. Most businesses that cater to hospitality thrives during the Biennale.

The Kochi Muziris Biennale will be held at various spaces in Kochi, Ernakulam and Mattancherry from December 12, 2022 to April 10, 2023. Mark your calendars!

Curator Shubigi Rao (L), Bose Krishnamachari (R)

The fifth edition of the Kochi Biennale will also feature a show in Durbar Hall, Ernakulam, featuring Malayali artists.

Maintaining the Biennale sites also incurred recurring expenses. All the sites of the Biennale are heritage spaces, revamped by contemporary art. It requires periodic maintenance.

How did you keep the spirit alive through it all?

It is important to find the right people to work with. I have some young talented people to handle the physical aspects of the show but the administrative side was still a struggle. This is not a regular 9 to 5 job. We work 24 x 7, and that is tough for most people to adapt to.

The most interesting event that happened during the lull was the mega art show, Lokame Tharavadu, at Alappuzha in 2021. This show, which was conceptualised while the Biennale had to be kept on hold due to the pandemic, kept the spirit alive in the art community and proved the power of art to heal.

Any regrets?

I can say I have sacrificed my family life as these demanding schedules left me with no time for that. That is my only regret in these 10 years of having founded the Biennale. Other than that, I can firmly say I have no regrets and am passionate about all the work I do.

The Biennale is set to open in a few days. Your thoughts...

This Biennale has a few introductions. We have invited some important institutions to be a part of the overall exhibition, hence making several curated exhibitions also possible, besides the main exhibition.

One of our main Biennale venues, the Durbar Hall in Ernakulam will be hosting a show of Malayali artists this time. We have invited three artists as curators to put the show together. This is a new addition to provide a platform for regional artists during the course of the Biennale. The main Biennale, however, has 60 percent of international artists while 40 percent belong to our nation.

We also plan to buy the main Biennale site and this, to me, has been one of the most reassuring decisions taken by the state, which reaffirms their belief in the soft power of art. This is an example that many Indian states should take seriously and invest in such infrastructure for the future.

Students of Bethany High will bring alive *School of Rock*, a musical by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber

LIGHTS, CAMERA, MUSIC

RYAN THOMAS

IT'S time to unpack your dusty old electric guitar because the Rock 'n' Roll trend from the '80s is set to make a comeback this week. The Bethany High production's musical, titled *School of Rock* by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, is set to rock the St John's Auditorium, from December 15 . The school, with its complete in-house production team, has been producing musicals such as *Shrek*, *The Jungle Book* and *Pippin*, since 2003.

According to Saroop Oommen, director of the musical, "*School of Rock* portrays the collision between the decadent, insane world of rock and a prim, pretentious prep school. Dewey Finn, despite being a foul-mouthed, manipulator, and an out-of-work rock musician transforms a bunch of socially awkward, withdrawn mid-schoolers into a bedazzling zany rock band." At the crux of the production lies the plaintive voice of children just wanting to be heard without judgment and surprisingly our feckless protagonist turns out to be their redeemer. "The story highlights our education system's issues, as there is so much pressure on children to conform to a system under the guise of discipline and career goals."

The production has a cast of 160 actors, dancers, choristers and live instrumentalists in total. Samuel Pinto, 16, who is playing the role of Dewey, the protagonist, says, "I love how I'm playing the character that seeks to liberate so many kids. My character who is unconventional in all senses of the word starts enjoying the company of the children. He makes everybody feel heard and acknowledged."

Sarah Zia, 18, who plays the role of Patty describes her character as evil, and one who hates children. "She's one of the three roommates that Dewey lives with and always invites trouble for him. It's certainly fun to be evil on stage because it helps me relate how an adult can unintentionally invite trouble for the kids," she says.

Stefan Carvalho, 13, who plays Freddi the drummer, has started listening to rock more. "It has expanded my genres and given me a taste for new music. I look at it as a blessing," he concludes.

(The show will be staged on Dec 15, 16 and 17 at the St. John's Auditorium, Koramangala. For details, visit bookmyshow.com)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sarali Krishna**, (Old Name), S/o. Sarali Krishna Bhat, aged about 24 years, residing at No. 120, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Vajapayee Nagar, SBM Road, KSRTC Layout, Near South Grand Hotel, Bengaluru - 560 061 India, have changed my name as **NIRANJAN SARALI KRISHAN** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 08.12.2022 sworn before Advocate & Notary S. R. Thulasikrishna, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MALAVIKA KRISHNAN CHERUPPOYILAM**, residing at, Flat No. 502, Pine Block, SJR Park Vista Apts, Haralur Main Road, Off Sarjapur Road, Bangalore-560102 have changed my name to **MALAVIKA KRISHNAN** vide affidavit dated 03-12-2022 sworn to before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

AFFIDAVIT
I, **LAKSHMIKANTH R.K**, S/o. R.L. Krishnegowda, aged about 52 years, residing at Belaku Nilaya, Sri Sai Road, Near Thanvi Thrisha Kalyana Mantapa, Jayanagar 2nd Stage, Chikkahonnenahalli, Vidyanagar, Hassan 573 202, Karnataka State, hereby declare that my correct name is **LAKSHMIKANTH R.K.** I state that **LAKSHMIKANTH R.K** and **LAKSHMIKANTHA R.K** both names are related to me only and one and the same. Vide affidavit dated 17.7.2022 sworn to before K. Singrigowda, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AKASH SINGH,** S/o Randhir Kumar Singh R/a #13, 3rd Floor, 1st Cross, Sri Krishna Layout, Byrathi Bande, Near Mims Habitat Cross, Kothanur, Bangalore- 560 077 Have Changed My Name to **AKASH KUMAR SINGH** vide Affidavit Dated: 8-12-2022 Before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahamed, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANAND ANGARA KOTIAN** R/at No.1-39, Anand House Korangrapady Post, Udupi-574118 have changed my name to **ANAND KOTIAN** vide affidavit dated: 10/12/2022 Before Notary **K.V. Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BASANTHI**, resident of #53, 3rd Cross, Wellington Paradise, Singasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560068 have changed my name to **BASANTHI SINGH** vide affidavit dated 09-12-2022 sworn to before advocate and notary C.N. Balasubramanyam, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MERCY NANAYAMARUTHEL MATHAI,** Residing at, No.25, 3rd Cross, R A Road, Ejipura, Viveknagar Post, Bengaluru- 560047, Karnataka, India, have changed my Name from **MERCY MATHEW** (Old Name) to **MERCY NANAYAMARUTHEL MATHAI** (New Name), vide affidavit dated:10-12-2022, sworn before Advocate & Notary, K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Krishna J Patel @ Krishna K Patel,** D/o Jagadish Patel, W/o Kushal C Patel, age 23 years, R/at No. 345/B, Shivashakthi Krupa, 17th Loop Road, 9th Main, Ideal Home Society, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560 098 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **KRISHNA J PATEL** and **KRISHNA K PATEL** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 7-12-2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.M. NAGARAJ** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BIJITHA B G,** R/at Bangalore-560064 have changed my minor daughter's name from **NIKA MENOTH** to **NIKA B** for all purposes vide affidavit dt. 06.12.2022 sworn before Notary Y R Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHOBHA**, resident of #53, 3rd Cross, Wellington Paradise, Singasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560068 have changed my name to **SHOBHA AMARNATH** vide affidavit dated 09-12-2022 sworn to before advocate and notary C.N. Balasubramanyam, Bangalore

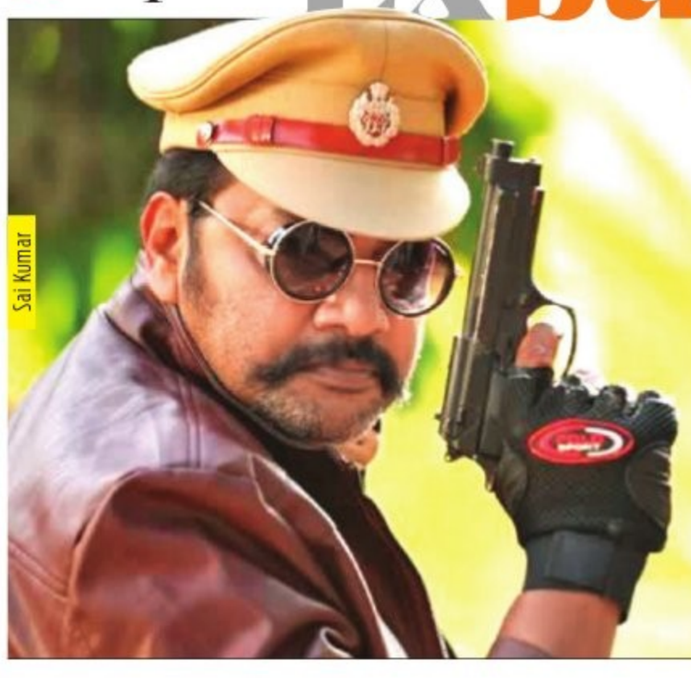
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RANDHIR SINGH** S/o. Yogendra Prasad Singh R/a #274/K, Ward#5, Near Akash Kirana Sector, Indiranagar, Supela Bhilai, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 490023 Have Changed My Name to **RANDHIR KUMAR SINGH** vide Affidavit Dated: 8-12-2022 Sworn Before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahamed, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DURGA PRASAD ETHA,** age 45 years, S/o Mr. Haranath Etha, R/at No. 606A, 5th Main, ITI Layout, Yelukunta, Bangalore-560 068 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **LAKSHMI HARI THANNISTA ETHA** to **LAKSHMI HARI THANISHKA ETHA,** henceforth she shall be known and called as **LAKSHMI HARI THANISHKA ETHA** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 8-12-2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.M. CHANDRASHEKAR** at Bangalore.

SMART ADS

BSNL LAYOUT
Premium Residential / Commercial Plots
Near B'lore Intl Airport & Mini Vidhana Soudha
On 6 lane NH 207
@ 1100/Sft
OPEN FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
9071534000

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP
For Classified Advertisements Contact:
9448689473
9886550650
080-22866893



Sai Kumar

SAI KUMAR IS BACK IN A COP AVATAR IN *RAKSHASARU*

CE FEATURES

RAKSHASARU will see veteran actor Sai Kumar back in a cop avatar. The multilingual film, written and directed by Ajay Kumar will see its release on December 16. "It has been fifty years since I started acting, and it was my film, *Police Story,* released 25 years ago, that made me famous," says Saikumar on the sidelines of the teaser launch event.

Rakshasaru will be the second collaboration of the actor and director after *Hethavaru*. "I have a penchant for sentimental stories. This is the first time I will be trying to explore a crime thriller, and I'm happy to have Saikumar as the face of this film," says Ajay Kumar.

Bankrolled by Ramesh Kashyap under the banner, Garudadri Cinemas, *Rakshasaru* also stars Puneeth, Anji, Jitin Avi, Kiran, Sunil, and Rushika Raj in pivotal characters. Based on real-life incidents, the crime story will have action choreographed by veteran stunt master Thriller Manju.

Barkha Sengupta and Ravichandran

Barkha Sengupta
to mark her Kannada debut with Ravichandran's *Gowri*

CE FEATURES

BARKHA Sengupta, the model-turned-actor, who is popular for her Hindi teleserials is marking her first south Indian debut with a Kannada film titled, *Gowri*. The Bengali actor, known for her role in the Hindi film (*Rajneeti*) made her debut with *Dui Prithibi* (2010), and appeared in the latest web series, *Mukhbir - The Story of a Spy*, will be starring in Aneesh S directorial debut and will be paired alongside the lead actor, Ravichandran.

The film produced by NS Rajkumar will be his third collaboration with Crazy Star. The film was launched recently, and had Shivarajkumar sounding the clapboard. The film shooting will kickstart in Dandeli on December 20. The project is billed to be a family entertainer, and Ravichandran will be playing a never-before-seen role.

The film is full of fresh talents on the technical side including director Aneesh. It has music by Karthikeyan and cinematography by Sathish.

Ravichandran's other lineup of films includes Rishika Sharma's Vijayanand biopic, which releases this week and *Kranti* alongside Darshan.

Imtiaz Ali set to begin shoot for *Chamkila*

CE FEATURES

WE earlier reported that director Imtiaz Ali is coming up with his next directorial Chamkila featuring Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra. The film is a biopic of Punjabi musician Amar Singh 'Chamkila', who, along with his wife Amarjot Kaur, was assassinated in 1988. While Diljit will play the role of Amar Singh while Parineeti will essay the role of Amarjot in the film.

Now, as per media reports, while Parineeti is busy prepping for the role for the past few months, Diljit and her have done several workshops together. The filming will begin on December 11 and will be shot over a span of two months. There will be breaks in December and January 2023.

For the unversed, Amar Singh was a songwriter, musician, and composer. Hailing from Punjab, he became popular with the stage name Chamkila and was regarded as one of the best performers from Punjab. His songs were a commentary on Punjab and its culture. His best-known hits include 'Takue Te Takua', and 'Pehle Lalkare Naal' among others.

Chamkila and his wife Amarjot were brutally gunned down along with two members of his band on March 8, 1988. No arrests were made at the time and the case has been unsolved to date. When it comes to other projects, Diljit was last seen in the Punjabi film Babe Bhangra Paunde Ne. His last Hindi film was Good Newwz. On the other hand, Parineeti was last seen in Sooraj Barjatya's Uunchai last month. She has also signed the Akshay Kumar-starrer Capsule Gill.

My next with Karthik Rajan will be an out-and-out gangster drama: Vikram Ravichandran

A SHARADHAA

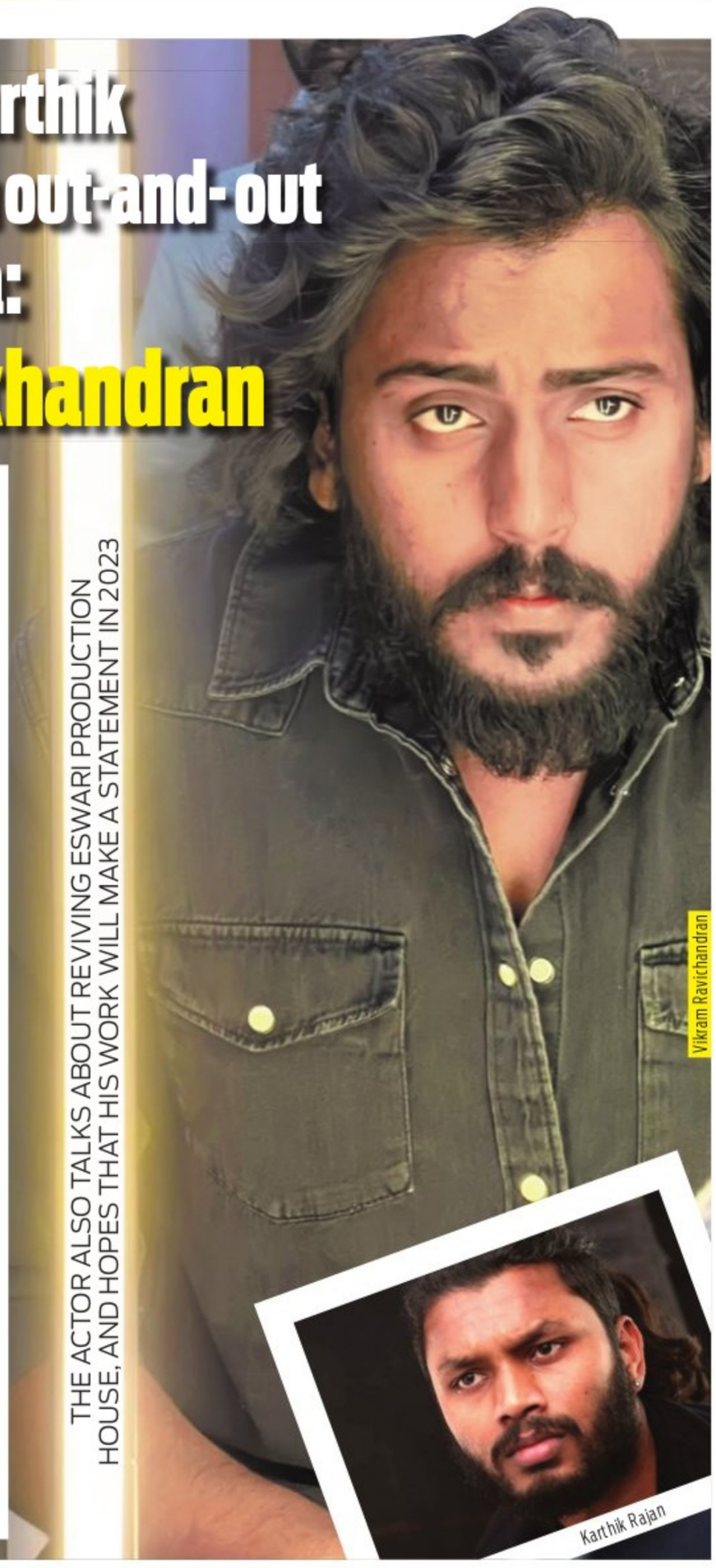
VIKRAM Ravichandran, who marked his debut with *Trivikrama* did take time to sign his second film, and he has finally signed his next. The actor will be part of a gangster drama that will mark the debut of writer-director Karthik Rajan.

The project was officially launched on Sunday and speaking to *CE,* Vikram shared that the team wanted to launch the film on the occasion of his brother Manuranjan's birthday, who sounded the clapboard.

A teaser along with the title will be launched in January 2023. The producers of *Mugilpete* (Raksha and Vijay Kumar) will be bankrolling the project, which will also be backed by Vikram Ravichandran. "I finally got to be part of a script of my liking, which will be cult and raw. The film will also have me relaunch our home banner, Eswari Productions," says Vikram, who plans to begin shooting for the project on this New Year's eve in Shivamogga. "It is time to raise the bar, and this project will be a good beginning for the year 2023. I'm not thinking too far about the film's result, but we definitely hope to make a statement in the industry in 2023."

Karthik, who has previously worked with Tamil director Vijay Chander, has also written the Telugu film, *Raju Gari Gadi 2,* which starred Nagarjuna and Samantha. Having helmed the Tamil web series, Nisha, Karthik has also worked as a co-director in *Head Bush.* Karthik could tap into his experience of working in gangster films to conceptualise his next. According to the director, Vikram is a perfect fit for the role. The film's shooting, which will begin in Shivamogga, will follow up in Bengaluru, and the team is finalising another location too.

The team has roped in fresh technicians for the project, including debut composer Yuvaraj, and editor PK. The rest of the cast and crew are being finalised by the makers.



THE ACTOR ALSO TALKS ABOUT REVIVING ESWARI PRODUCTION HOUSE, AND HOPES THAT HIS WORK WILL MAKE A STATEMENT IN 2023

Vikram Ravichandran

Karthik Rajan

Pranathi
to mark her tinsel town debut with Just Pass

CE FEATURES

PRANATHI is the latest actor to make the transition from serials to films. Known for her appearances in the serial *Brahmagantu*, and the reality shows, Dance Karnataka Dance, and Family War Season 2, Pranathi is set to star in *Just Pass*.

Pranathi will be paired alongside Shri in the KM Raghuram directorial. The makers, who have finalised the lead cast and other actors, are planning to begin shooting for the film on December 14.

Produced by Sashidhar KV and Sridhar VK, *Just Pass* made under the Royce Entertainment banner, also stars Rangayana Raghu, Sadhukokila, Suchendra Prasad, Naveen D Padikkal, Prakash Tuminad, Deepak Rai, Arpita, Chandu Sri, Yashika, Vishwas, Nikhil, Gagan, and Abhi.

With music by Harshvardhan Raj, *Just Pass* will have cinematography by Venus Nagaraj Murthy.

Pranathi

Tyrese Gibson, Ruby Rose to play assassins in *The Collective*

CE FEATURES

TYRESE Gibson and Ruby Rose have reportedly joined the cast of the upcoming action-thriller film titled *The Collective*. Gibson is best known for appearing in the *Fast and Furious* franchise while Rose is known for playing an assassin in John Wick: Chapter 2.

Tyrese Gibson and Ruby Rose will be joined by cast members Don Gibson and Lucas Till. The film revolves around a group of assassins known as *The Collective,* to go on a mission to bring down a human trafficking operation run by some of the wealthiest people in the world. The fate of their mission ends up in the hands of a newbie by the name of Sam Alexander, played by Lucas Till.

The Collective is directed by Tom DeNucci who is best known for directing the 2019 film Vault and the 2013 film Army of the Damned. The film is based on a script written by Matt Rogers and Jason James. Jordan Yale Levine and Jordan Beckerman have produced the film under their banner Yale Entertainment along with Dawn's Light Media.

AN INTRIGUING MEDICO CRIME THRILLER

A SHARADHAA

DR. 56 is a film stitched around a murder mystery with the usual characters associated with an investigative thriller finding their way into the project. However, what sets it apart is how the protagonist is portrayed as an innocent victim of a much broader plan. Apart from the inherent engagement factor of mystery films, director Rakesh Anandleela uses basic emotions and family sentiments as an ideal tool to bridge medical theories and a cinematic experience. And, honestly, the filmmaker succeeds to an extent.

The story revolves around Arjun (Praveen), a theater artist who is suffering from an illness and has to take a pill every 56 minutes. Parallel to his misery is a murder investigation of three neurosurgeons. Investigation officer Priya Krishna (Priyamani) and the team find Arjun to be a suspect after going through CCTV footage. The brisk narrative follows his weak situation while revealing the scope of the medical mafia and its involvement in a surgery gone wrong. Does Arjun have any connection with the medical mafia? There is also a dog finding its way into the narrative, which has enough twists to keep us gripped by the proceedings.

Director Rajesh has truffled the first half with suspense, drama, and crisp investigation sequences. However, the second half is diluted when Priya Krishna meets Dr. Ashwath (Deepak Shetty), and the two go on a lengthy exposition about the medical mafia, and its consequences. Praveen who dons multiple hats in the film, including actor, producer, and writer, does a convincing job in all departments. Priyamani gives another terrific performance, and the intelligence of her character is a highlight of the role.

The cinematography by Rakesh Thilak and the background score by Nobil Paul elevate this mystery film. Excluding the inclusion of certain commercial elements, *DR 56* is quite an enjoyable murder mystery that will find welcome among the faithfuls of that genre.

DR.56

Director: Rajesh AnandaLeela

Cast: Priyamani, Praveen, Deepak Raj Shetty, Ramesh Bhat, Veena Ponnappa, Rupesh Kumar, Rohit, Yethiraj, Manjunath Hegde, and Swathi